

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 1 JUNE 1871

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 1 June, 1871.

Soundings in Moreton Bay, and Alienation of Crown Lands
in the neighborhood of Cleveland and Victoria Point.
—Supposed Remains of Leichhardt.—Adjournment.

SOUNDINGS IN MORETON BAY, AND
ALIENATION OF CROWN LANDS IN
THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF CLEVELAND
AND VICTORIA POINT.

Mr. FERRETT moved—

That there be laid on the table of this House a tracing of Moreton Bay, from the River Brisbane to Redland on one side, and Stradbroke Island on the other; shewing the soundings as per Admiralty chart, and also shewing the "alienation" of Crown lands in the neighborhood of Cleveland and Victoria Point.

The honorable member said that his object in bringing forward this motion was to shew, by the return he asked for, that there was a place in Moreton Bay where there was a sufficient depth of water for the establishment of a harbor for vessels of large tonnage; and also to shew how much land had been alienated as between Cleveland and Victoria Point. He was not aware if any honorable member on the Government side of the House had any interest whatever in a line of railway being carried to Victoria Point; and therefore, in bringing forward this motion, he simply desired to act as he had always done since he had had a seat in the House, for the benefit of the public generally. He had heard it stated that some honorable members had an interest in the railway going to Cleveland. Whether such was the case or not, he could not say; but, by the returns he now asked for, the House would be fully informed on the subject. He asked for the returns, not for the benefit of any particular district or another, nor for the benefit of any particular class. In fact, he thought that this motion would have been allowed to pass as a formal one; and that there would have been no opposition offered to it at present. A time would come when the subjects to which it referred would have to be discussed; and when that time came, honorable members, if the return he asked for were granted, would be fully informed as to the shipping capabilities along the shores of the Bay. All he desired was, to see a port established where

goods from all parts of the colony could be shipped on the same advantageous terms as they were shipped in Sydney and elsewhere. He did not care whether the railway went to Victoria Point or not; and he could assure the House that he was in no way interested in its going there. When the returns he now asked for were laid on the table, it would be easy to ascertain whether it would be cheaper to make a railway to Victoria Point, or to dredge the river so as to allow of vessels of large tonnage coming up to South Brisbane. When they had that information, they could then say whether the railway should go to Victoria Point or be brought only to South Brisbane.

Mr. GROOM said he could not see what advantage the colony would be likely to derive from such a return as was now asked for. He must say that he did not know exactly where Victoria Point was, except that it was somewhere in the Bay; and he did not believe that half-a-dozen persons would be found, out of Ipswich, who would advocate the carrying of the railway to Victoria Point; where, as he had been credibly informed, in the course of the day, the water was very shallow indeed. He did not know if this motion had or had not been brought forward for the purpose of affording honorable members on the Opposition side of the House an opportunity of reviving the debate on the railway question, but he knew that it would have that effect. As he had already said, he did not believe there was half-a-dozen sane men, out of Ipswich, who would ask that the railway should be carried to Victoria Point. Everyone else, he believed, would advocate that it should be brought to the metropolis, as the proper place for the main terminus. It seemed to him to be quite absurd to speak of taking the railway to deep water, seeing they had expended £190,000 in the forming of what was known as Francis' Channel, to enable large vessels to come up the river a certain distance. Now the dredge was at work at Eagle Farm Flats; and, he believed, that in about six months, vessels of 1,000 tons burden would be able to come up to Brisbane—while the expense of the dredging operations would come to only about £6,000. Such being the case, he did not see that there was any necessity for the returns now asked for. He was present at a public meeting, at Ipswich, where the taking of the railway to Victoria Point was agitated; and, so far as he could gather, the opinion of the meeting seemed to be that the railway should be taken anywhere except to Brisbane; and that only to spite the people of Brisbane. The more the speakers declaimed against Brisbane, the more they were applauded. He would, as he had already said, oppose the motion, as being quite unnecessary. There were many returns moved for, and laid on the table of the House—returns which involved large expenditure—that were never made any use of after, and this might be one of them.

The SPEAKER was understood to say, that judging by the nature of the discussion, he was not sure but the question was one which might properly be referred to the select committee on railway extension.

Mr. ATKIN said it was only the question of the extension of the northern line that had been referred to a select committee, and he did not think there could be any intention whatever to have that line extended to Stradbroke Island.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that many expensive returns had been asked for during the present session, and though the Government had, in most instances, objected to furnish them, the House had invariably decided that they should be furnished. The return which was now asked for, could be very easily furnished, and at a very small cost, and yet honorable members on the other side of the House opposed the motion. He did not know what was the object of the honorable member in asking for this return, but the information he desired he could readily obtain, as to the alienation of Crown lands in the neighborhood of Cleveland and Victoria Point, at the Surveyor-General's office; and as to the soundings of the Bay, at the Portmaster's office.

Mr. KING said he had waited to hear if the honorable the Minister for Works would oppose this motion, but, as yet, the honorable member had not risen to say anything about it. Now, he thought, for his own part, that it would only be trifling with the public, and with the time of the House, if they were to pass this motion. He did not think that the honorable member who had brought forward this motion, or any other of the honorable members for Ipswich or West Moreton, earnestly desired that the railway should be carried to Victoria Point, or that there should be a harbor established there, or at any other point in the Bay. He believed that all they desired was to prevent the railway being extended to Brisbane. The House should not consent to trifle with the great question of railway extension in this way. The promoters of this motion, had openly acknowledged that this was only an attempt to get up a counter agitation to the main question. As to the construction of a railway to Victoria Point, that was a subject which had never yet been brought forward. He believed it was quite correct what the honorable the Colonial Secretary had said—that the honorable member could very easily obtain more full information, than would be contained in a return such as he asked for, by calling at the Surveyor-General's office, and the office of the Portmaster. This motion, he maintained, was simply brought forward to divert the attention of the public. Returns were generally refused, on the ground that they would involve the expenditure of public money; and yet they found the Government supporting this motion. For his own part, he would certainly oppose it.

Mr. MORGAN said he would certainly oppose the motion, and that on the ground that many expensive returns were brought forward and no use made of them. He had moved for some returns, and it might be said that he had made no use of them; but that was because he was not furnished with the principal portion of the returns he asked for. There were other returns he moved for last session, and they were supplied in an incomplete state. He had moved this session for returns to supply the deficiency, but they had not yet been furnished.

Mr. MILES said it was his intention to oppose the motion. He looked upon it as a piece of humbug. But his chief reason for opposing it was, that he considered it to be a Government motion. He thought he had good reason for having that opinion, when he found that on the previous day one of the honorable members for West Moreton, Mr. Ferrett, got up and made what seemed to him to be a Ministerial explanation. Then, after the honorable member for Fortitude Valley asked for some information, the honorable member for Ipswich, Mr. Johnston, got up, and, as it appeared to him, explained what were the views of the Government in the matter. For those reasons he would oppose the motion.

Mr. ATKIN said he thought it was utterly useless for honorable members to try to oppose the motion, seeing the Government had a majority of one; and it was utterly impossible for the Government, having a majority of one, to refuse to support any motion that might be brought forward by any of the honorable members for Ipswich or West Moreton. In fact, it might be said that it was the honorable members for Ipswich and West Moreton who carried on the Government of the country; and everyone knew that the policy of the Government was the policy of the honorable member for Ipswich, Mr. Cribb. The opposition to this motion was, he maintained, perfectly legitimate; for it shewed on the face of it that the returns asked for would involve considerable expense. If the honorable member who had brought forward this motion could easily obtain the information he wished for, by calling at the Surveyor-General's office and the Portmaster's office, he ought to go to those two offices and get it. The extremes to which the Ipswich party went was somewhat extraordinary. They always seemed to be laboring under some craze. They got a bridge for themselves, and a railway from Ipswich to the interior; and now their cry was against the extension of the railway from Ipswich to Brisbane, or the completion of the Brisbane bridge. When the Brisbane bridge was at first projected, their cry was that there should be an opening in it sufficient to admit of the passage of vessels of one thousand tons burden, and that the river should be deepened all the way up, in order that Ipswich might become a port for large vessels. Now they

objected to the completion of the bridge or the deepening of the river, and asked that the railway should be carried to Victoria Point, and that the harbor for the southern portion of the colony should be there. The honorable gentleman who now held the office of Colonial Treasurer was at one time subject to the craze of the Ipswich people about the bridge. Had it not been for the members for Ipswich and West Moreton, the bridge might have been finished long ago, and before the failure of the Queensland Bank.

Mr. CRIBB: No, no.

Mr. ATKIN: Well, he maintained that it would have been, and that at half the expense it would now cost to finish it, but for the demands the Ipswich and West Moreton members made upon the Colonial Treasurer of the day, and who was now Colonial Treasurer. That gentleman was then himself a member of the happy family which demanded that the size of the drawbridge should be increased, to allow of the passage of vessels of 1,000 tons, so that in view of the river being deepened, they might go up to Ipswich as a port. It seemed that so long as Brisbane was not made the port, the Ipswich Government did not seem to care what expense was incurred to make a railway, and form a port elsewhere. Admitting that Victoria Point was all that could be wished, the Ipswich Government were prepared to go to the expense of £200,000 to carry a railway there; and if they got it there, a further and very large expenditure would have to be incurred in the construction of a breakwater, docks, and other such works. Although they cried out against the extension of the railway from Ipswich to Brisbane, the completion of the bridge, and the deepening of the river between Brisbane and the Bay, and other public works, on the ground that the revenue could not afford it, they were quite prepared to go to double the expense that would be required for those purposes, for the formation of a railway from Ipswich to Victoria Point. Now, that being the case, he would ask, could honorable members on the Government side of the House be astonished that honorable members on the Opposition side of the House should object to a motion for a bogus return of this kind, especially as the honorable member could otherwise easily obtain the information he desired.

Mr. CRIBB said that the honorable member who had just sat down was quite wrong in saying that it was owing to the conduct of the members for Ipswich and West Moreton that the Brisbane bridge had not been finished. It was the people of Brisbane themselves who were alone to blame for the present condition of the bridge. They sent in a statement that the bridge could be erected for £30,000, and an Act of Parliament was passed, authorising the construction of the bridge; but, when the contract was accepted, the plans were so altered that an expenditure of £70,000 would be required to

carry them out. However, the construction of the bridge was proceeded with, but contrary to the provisions of the Act. Now, that was all owing to the action of the Brisbane and East Moreton clique; and but for the action those members took, the bridge would have been finished, instead of there being only a few pillars standing in the middle of the river. As to making Ipswich a port, the honorable member had not attempted to prove that it could not be made a port. Now, he (Mr. Cribb) believed that Ipswich could be made a port. He did not see why the motion should be objected to. The returns asked did not, as it seemed to him, have anything whatever to do with a railway to Victoria Point. It only referred to the alienation of Crown lands in the neighborhood of Cleveland and Victoria Point, and to the soundings in the Bay. If it had been the intention of the honorable member for West Moreton, Mr. Ferrett, to have asked for a line of railway from Ipswich to Victoria Point, he could have brought forward the question when the general subject of railway extension was before the House.

Mr. THORN said he could not allow the observations which had been made by the honorable member for East Moreton to pass unchallenged. At the time the bridge question was being agitated, the honorable member for South Brisbane occupied the position of Mayor of Brisbane; and it was in consequence of the course of conduct pursued by him and other members of the Corporation at that time, in objecting to allow the construction of the bridge to pass into the hands of the Government, that it was not completed long ago;—but the honorable member had failed in almost every position he had occupied—whether that of Mayor, Treasurer, or any other. He (Mr. Thorn) was not opposed to the construction of the bridge, or to the extension of the railway, if carried through the proper country and to a proper point. He was not sure that it would be most advantageous that Brisbane should be the port as between the Bay and the interior. The principal port might as well be at the seventeen-mile rocks as at Brisbane. Now, he must repeat that it was altogether owing to the conduct of the Brisbane clique that Brisbane had not yet got the bridge, or the railway from Ipswich. Why was there so much objection raised to this motion, which only asked for certain returns that could be got at the Surveyor-General's office and the Portmaster's office at any time? The conduct of the honorable member for Drayton and Toowoomba seemed to him to be most extraordinary, in respect to the matter of railway extension. Why, one day he was found at Ipswich, advocating railway extension from Ipswich to the Bay; and at a meeting at Dalby, a day or two afterwards, he advocated railway extension from Westwood to Expedition Range; and yet he now

opposed this motion. He (Mr. Thorn) would vote for the motion, because he believed it would be found, by the returns that were asked for, that a railway, carried in the way indicated, to Victoria Point, would have the effect of opening up a large district in which there was a great amount of land well suited for agricultural pursuits.

Mr. STEPHENS said that there was not a word of truth in the statement which had been made by the honorable member, at any rate so far as it referred to any Government having ever expressed a willingness to take over the construction of the bridge from the corporation, and carry it out. As the honorable member, Mr. Thorn, knew that what he had stated in that respect was not in accordance with the facts of the case, he, Mr. Stephens, thought it unnecessary for him to take any further notice of what had been said by the honorable member on the subject. Why, the honorable member knew quite well, that at the time of the bridge agitation the honorable gentleman, who was now Colonial Treasurer, was then Treasurer, and a member of the happy family, presided over by Messrs. Cribb and Foote; and that a deputation from Ipswich waited on him and pressed him to have the plans altered, so that there might be provision made for the passage of sea-going vessels above the bridge, with the view, probably, some time or other of their being able to go up to Ipswich. Well, they succeeded in getting an alteration made in the width of the drawbridge, to an extent that was ten feet wider than was required for the largest vessels that ever came here. It had been stated also that the bridge had been commenced, and so far carried out, in a way contrary to the provisions of the Act authorising its construction. Well, if that were the case, how did it come to pass that the Government of the day approved of the plans, as they did, by an Executive minute? Any change that was made in the plans was made through the interference of the Ipswich people, under the influence of Messrs. Cribb and Foote; and all that had been done in that way, therefore, was done, it might fairly be presumed, for the benefit of the Ipswich people. Why then should it be said that it was either the people of Brisbane, or the Corporation of Brisbane, or the members for Brisbane acting in conjunction with the members for West Moreton, that were to blame for the alterations of the plans, and the non-completion of the bridge long ago? Until this interference took place everything was done in accordance with the provisions of the Bridge Act. As to the motion, he thought that, as regarded the first part, all the information required could be obtained at the Portmaster's office; but as to the second part, he did not know how far it was intended it should extend, or whether the return would shew the names of the parties to whom the lands referred to had been alien-

ated, with other particulars. He would therefore move—

That the question be amended by the insertion, after the word "alienation," of the words, "and present holders."

The COLONIAL TREASURER said he should not have considered it necessary to take any part in the present discussion but for one or two remarks that had been made by the honorable member for South Brisbane. He did not know if it was owing to the recollection of the honorable member being at fault, or to his ingeniousness, that he had represented one or two matters in connection with the construction of the Brisbane bridge in a wrong light. The honorable member had stated that, up to a certain point, the construction of the bridge was carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Act, and that what was done subsequently, if not in accordance with the Act, was attributable to the Government of the day, who sanctioned the alterations. But he had forgotten to tell the House that certain propositions were objected to by the Government of the day solely on the ground that they were not in accordance with the provisions of the Act. The Act provided that the plans were to be approved of by the Government before any steps were taken in the matter of constructing the bridge.

Mr. STEPHENS: The plans were submitted to the Government for approval.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: Well, he denied that they were; otherwise the Government would have had no cause to object to the carrying out of the plans after the building of the bridge was commenced, because if they had been submitted to the Government and approved of before the works were commenced, the terms of the Act so far would have been complied with. But that was not the case, and, therefore, so far, the statement of the honorable member for South Brisbane was not correct. The honorable member had also stated that the Government would not undertake the building of the bridge. Now, one of the strongest arguments against the bridge at the time it was projected was that the corporation was not the best body to be entrusted with the carrying out of the work; and the Government told the corporation that they were quite prepared to undertake the building of the bridge. Several honorable members then in the House agreed to that proposal, but the corporation objected to it. Those were important statements, and as honorable members would see, they altogether altered the appearance of the argument of the honorable member for South Brisbane. As to the motion before the House, he thought it was of very little importance to the honorable member for West Moreton, Mr. Ferrett, whether it was carried or not. If, however, the motion should go to a division, he would consider it to be his duty to vote for it.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS said he remembered distinctly that at the time the bridge question was being agitated, Mr. Herbert, who was then Colonial Secretary, made a proposition for the erection of the bridge, but the Corporation of Brisbane refused to agree to it. If he remembered rightly, the reply was to the effect that the corporation was as well able as the Government to make the bridge; and he believed that the honorable member for South Brisbane held the office of Mayor at the time. Mr. Herbert had tenders sent in for the erection of a suitable bridge, for about £30,000, and that fact itself shewed that the Government either intended themselves to erect the bridge, or had made a proposition to the corporation to take the work out of their hands. But the Government was prevented from taking up the work by the obstructiveness of the Corporation of Brisbane. But for the remarks that had been made by the honorable member for South Brisbane, he would not have felt it necessary to address the House on this matter at all. As to the question before the House, it appeared to him that there must be some inexplicable reason for the strong opposition that was made to it; and that ground alone formed a strong reason why honorable members on the Government side of the House should vote in support of the motion.

Dr. O'DOHERTY said he would address a few words to the House, as he might be able to throw a little light on the matter which had been brought forward in the course of this discussion. At the time of the Brisbane bridge agitation, he was a resident of Ipswich, and was a member of the Ipswich happy family, of which the honorable member, Mr. Cribb, was then the father, as he was still. Now, he would do that honorable member the justice of saying, that all the time he (Dr. O'Doherty) was resident in Ipswich, the honorable member might be said to have held in his hands the elections for Ipswich and West Moreton. Such was the influence the honorable member possessed then, and no doubt he possessed an equal influence now. He remembered attending a public meeting at Ipswich, which was convened for the purpose of appointing deputations to the Colonial Treasurer of the day, to interfere with the erection of the bridge; and well he recollected with what confidence the people of Ipswich looked forward to being able to put a check on the Brisbane clique, through the Colonial Treasurer, and the honorable members for Ipswich and West Moreton. Another object of the meeting was to insist that the honorable the Treasurer, who was then member for West Moreton, should attend first to the interests of his constituents, and after that to the interests of the country. He was free to admit that he was one of those who attended that meeting, with the distinct determination of putting a stop, if possible, to the progress of Brisbane. He had, however,

got over those wrong views, and his eyes had become opened to the evils of the influence of the Ipswich clique; and the colony would yet have reason to be thankful for the opposition that had been offered, and that was now offered to that clique. Different statements had been made as to the cost of a line between Ipswich and Brisbane, and the cost of a line to Victoria Point. He had heard it said that the cost of running a line from Ipswich to Brisbane, would amount to £400,000; and that, on the other hand, the expense of running a line to Victoria Point would cost £300,000. Well, a Railway Commission had been appointed, and, he thought, that the evidence taken before that Commission should receive that due consideration to which it was entitled, before the House came to any decision as to the formation of a railway to Victoria Point. It was altogether absurd for the honorable member for Ipswich, Mr. Cribb, to have had any obstacle to the extension of the railway from Ipswich to Brisbane brought forward till that was done. If that honorable member would study the evidence taken before the Commission, he would no doubt agree with him (Dr. O'Doherty) that the cost of constructing a line of railway between Ipswich and Brisbane would amount only to about £200,000. It should be remembered, that when railway works were first commenced in this colony, the cost of labor was about double what it was now; and, therefore, the original estimate as to the cost of the line, must not be taken as any criterion as to what would be the cost of construction at the present time. Mr. Fountain, one of the witnesses who was examined before the Commission, stated that at the outset certain railway works cost seven shillings and sixpence per cubic yard; but that the same kind of work was done for three shillings and sixpence on the deviation. Then again, Mr. Fountain said, that for all the bridge-work on the line the cost at first was about double what it was afterwards. That being the case, the cost of constructing a line of railway now, might fairly be put down at one-half the cost of constructing the first railway in the colony. When railways were first commenced here very few persons knew much about railway construction; but now the case was different. They had learned a good deal from experience; and, besides, it was well known that several plans had been projected for the construction of cheap railways. He thought it was quite absurd for anyone to get up and say that the construction of twenty-three miles of railway—as between Ipswich and Brisbane—would cost the large amount that had been mentioned. As to the motion before the House, he believed that in order that a vessel drawing fifteen feet of water might be able to reach Victoria Point, it would be necessary to cut another channel, and one that would be longer than Francis' Channel; and the cost to do that would amount to more than double the cost of constructing a railway from

Ipswich to Brisbane, and the deepening of the flats at Eagle Farm, in order to allow ships of large tonnage to come to the wharves at Brisbane, and discharge and take in cargo in the neighborhood of the main terminus of the railway to the interior. He had stated also what had been stated to him by a member of the Marine Board, that, for the sum of £6,000 additional, the channel at the Eagle Farm Flats could be completely cut through; and, that in the course of a few months more, Brisbane could have all the advantages that could be possibly desired for this port, to place it on a footing of equality with the ports of Sydney and Melbourne—if only the railway was brought down to South Brisbane. Under the circumstances, vessels of a thousand tons burden could come close up to the wharves to discharge, and to obtain freight, with despatch; and such vessels were the largest that would be required for years to come. According to the evidence of Mr. Hart, before the Railway Commission, such vessels were excellent for all purposes, light draft of water, speed, and just the sort that should be accommodated here. That would be the logical result of what had been done in this country for the last ten years. The fact could not be ignored that a large sum of money had been spent in clearing a part of the river navigation, while millions had been spent in making the railways. And, in the face of all the evidence, and of what had been done already towards the accomplishment of that result, the House ought not to consent to such a motion as that before them, which had no other object than that of upholding the old Ipswich clique in stopping everything like progress.

The Hon. R. PRING said he thought no honorable member ought to come down to the House to move for returns which he could get for half-a-crown, if willing to pay for them himself. It appeared to him perfectly absurd that the honorable member for West Moreton should move for them to be placed on the table, when, if he would take a walk down to the Portmaster's office, he could get all he required for the sum named. He had thought the honorable member far above that. What did the honorable member want? He would know as much about the depth of the water when he got the information as he did now. What did he want to know about the land at Redland Bay—whose property it was? The fact of the matter was, the true nail had been hit on the head when the honorable member for Wide Bay had said that the motion was part of a little scheme again got up by the "father of the family"—a dodge to get up a counter question of railway extension from Ipswich to Victoria Point, instead of to Brisbane. It was an astonishing thing, perhaps; but very few people knew where Victoria Point was. After what had fallen from the Premier, the honorable member for West Moreton, Mr. Ferrett, should, like a man—or, a "Tommy

Dodd," even—it would not be refused—get his information at the Port Office. He wondered at a man of his calibre, closely connected with the father of the family, placed in a high position as junior member of the Ministry—as had been shown by his backing up the Government—allowing himself to be led by the nose by an old gentleman in his dotage. He thought the honorable member ought to withdraw the motion; as, when the information was forthcoming, it would be of no use to him, and nobody else would make any use of it. Irrespective of that, however, he (Mr. Pring) wished to correct a mistake made by the Colonial Treasurer, just now. Honorable members appeared to get up and make mis-statements in the House in the most reckless manner possible. The Treasurer had so acted, and had charged the honorable member for South Brisbane with doing certain things which were not correct, and about which the honorable gentleman himself knew more than any other member of the House. In attributing what he did to the honorable member for South Brisbane, the Treasurer was in a fog, to say the least; he was absolutely wrong in what he had said, and he ought to know it. He was wrong in saying that the Government had not approved of the Bridge plans. The honorable member for South Brisbane had said the Government had approved of them, and he was right. They were approved of. He (Mr. Pring) was in office, and he knew it. They were disapproved of nearly a year afterwards, and by whom? By the then, and present, Colonial Treasurer, at the instance of Cribb and Foote! He (Mr. Pring) would prove it.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: That was another set of plans.

The Hon. R. PRING: In 1869, when the honorable member for Fortitude Valley was Premier, he brought in a Bridge Bill, and the whole question was laid before the House:—

"It appeared that the Brisbane Bridge Act, having passed in August, 1861, the municipal council, about February, 1864, submitted the plans of the proposed structure to the Government of the day; and there was some correspondence at page 745 of the 'Votes and Proceedings' for 1867, by which it would be seen the plans submitted by the municipal council were approved of by the Government. There was there a letter from the then Colonial Secretary, Mr. Herbert, dated the 5th of February, 1864, to the effect that the Government had approved of the plans. Now, on the 22nd August of the same year, the corporation got so far forward with the work as to be able to lay the foundation stone of the Brisbane bridge; and now, in July, 1869, the pillars of the bridge were there only, or a few of them, to attest the progress that had since been made. But a very large expenditure had been made in the attempt to finish the structure."

* * * * *

"On the 10th of July, 1865, nearly eighteen months after the plans had been approved, and twelve months after the foundation stone had

been laid, the corporation was surprised by the receipt of a letter from the then Colonial Treasurer, Mr. Bell, requiring them to raise the whole structure six feet, so as to give a headway of thirty-eight feet in the northern bays, and to enlarge the swing bridge, which had been originally fixed at thirty feet, to no less a width than sixty-five feet."

There it was, as plain as a pike-staff, that the action of the father of the family and his mob had prevented the bridge being built by getting the Treasurer into office to make the objection, that the bridge was not in accordance with the Bridge Act,

"so far as it relates to the navigation of the river by sea-going vessels."

There had been no alteration from the time of Mr. Herbert's letter of approval like that proposed by the Treasurer, an increase of thirty feet in the width of the swing bridge, and an increased height of six feet. On the 15th July, 1865, the Treasurer wrote a second letter:—

"The necessity for the earliest action being taken in this matter, in order to admit of instructions being forwarded to England by the present outgoing mail, has been impressed upon you, both through Mr. Oldham, your engineer, and also by an officer sent expressly from the Treasury; and I much regret to observe that you have not yet, so far as I am aware, brought the matter under the consideration of your municipal council, or, at any rate, have not communicated their decision to the Government.

"Having in view the importance of the subject to all persons interested in the navigation of the river, I feel it my duty to inform you that the Government will feel bound, should the corporation not be disposed to take immediate steps to comply with the suggestion of the Government, to take such action as may be necessary to remove the undue obstructions to navigation presented by the temporary bridge, and to prevent the erection of any permanent structure which may not be in strict accordance with the provisions and spirit of the Brisbane Bridge Act."

Where was there one word about an alteration of the plans there? It was merely because the plans, on being looked at subsequently, were found not to suit exactly the wants of the honorable gentleman's friends, that he took action and tried to impose terms on the corporation which should never have been proposed at all; and which prevented the completion of the work. There was never any alteration by the corporation.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: There was a substitution of plans.

The Hon. R. PRING: There was no alteration; no substitution whatever, that he was aware of.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: A fresh set.

The Hon. R. PRING: Nothing was said in the letter about the substitution of plans; it said that the work was not in accordance with the Brisbane Bridge Act.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: No. But a select committee was appointed that shewed

The Hon. R. PRING: He did not know anything about the committee. He only knew what was told there, in that letter, and that coercion had been brought to bear on the corporation. Let the Treasurer deny that the corporation had worked for twelve months on those plans when he interfered.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: Not on the first plans, the new plans.

The Hon. R. PRING: He did not know what the honorable gentleman meant by the new plans.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I do.

The Hon. R. PRING: He was speaking of the plans of 1864, that Mr. Herbert never objected to. The action of the Treasurer was unfair; the whole thing, after he took office, was disgraceful; and that action had resulted in money having been spent to waste and in the bridge not being completed to this day. Therefore, the honorable member for South Brisbane had spoken correctly. The plans had not been altered; the Treasurer had not rested his objections upon any alteration in the original plans, but upon the ground that the design was not in accordance with the Bridge Act. It was all done by the Treasurer under pressure of the Ipswich mob.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said he had been a member of the Government that took the action in reference to the bridge, and he would state to the House the facts which had been obtained by a select committee. Certain plans had been sent in to the corporation, and a premium was awarded to one signed "Delta," which was selected by the corporation, approved by the Government, and the tender of Mr. Bourne to do the work for £52,000 odd was accepted. But the contract was never signed and was never acted upon. The Corporation of the City of Brisbane substituted another plan which had not the approval of the Government, and that plan was carried out for some time before it came to the knowledge of the Government that the substitution had taken place. Then the Government, as their duty was, called upon the Corporation to modify their plan, so as to bring it within the provisions of the Bridge Act. That, in a few words, was the case.

Mr. STEPHENS: No.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Well, he would come to the evidence, before the select committee, of the contractor. He was asked by Mr. Fitzgerald:—

"I see by this paper that you made a tender on the 11th June, 1864, for the erection of the bridge, according to the design signed 'Delta'? Yes.

"The price agreed on was £52,599 8s.? Yes; that was the amount of the tender, I believe.

"The specification, schedules of prices, and indenture or contract signed by you, were for the erection of that bridge? I don't think I ever signed a contract for the erection of that bridge. The tender was accepted; but that plan was not carried out.

"But the bond that you signed was to carry out that plan? Yes.

"It appears quite plain that the bond you signed was to carry out that plan? Yes. The plans of 'Delta' have never been signed to this day.

* * * * *

"Did you attempt to carry out the original design? No; it has never been signed—it was never acted on."

"How long after signing this bond did you get instructions which relieved you from attempting to carry out the original plan? I think the contract plans were signed on the 4th July."

About three weeks after they should have been signed, the plans received the signatures of the parties. That was the evidence of the contractor.

The Hon. R. PRING: He did not care for that. There was not a word of it correct.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL (*reading*):—

"When was the design set aside? I should say it was set aside immediately on substituting the fresh set of plans and signing the contract for them.

"Where can we get this set of plans? The signed plans are in the possession of the corporation. I have only copies."

Then he found Mr. Oldham, who had been employed in the preparation of those sets of plans, said—

"When the contract and the plans and specifications attached were signed, was it understood that the bridge was to be built according to those plans for the sum of £52,000, as stated in the contract? Not that bridge—not the ten plans. The tender was for 'Delta'—for the original plan.

"But 'Delta' was not acted upon? No.

"We have had in evidence that the ten plans were merely working drawings, necessary to adapt the design of 'Delta' to the actual circumstances of the river? They are totally different: the design is different, the construction is different.

* * * * *

"Whom were those ten plans made by? I drew all the plans, under the direction of my father.

"And, in fact, it was a new bridge? It was a new bridge entirely.

"And a different design from that referred to in the contract as 'Delta'? Different construction.

* * * * *

"What does the estimate amount to? £72,400.

"That was to carry out the design referred to on those ten plans: at least, the design figured on those plans? Yes."

The "Delta" plans differed very materially from the plans which were actually worked upon. It appeared from the evidence of the Town Clerk, Mr. Dowse, that

"Were those ten plans approved by the Government? No; it was not necessary."

Those were the facts of the case.

Mr. LILLEY: The Attorney-General had made a mess of it.

The Hon. R. PRING: Hear, hear.

Mr. STEPHENS: As usual.

Mr. LILLEY: No; he would not say that. The honorable gentleman, as a lawyer, knew as well as he (Mr. Lilley) knew, that Mr. Bourne's testimony—although John Bourne was a very respectable person—would be received with considerable doubt in a court of law; because Mr. Bourne was under the impression that he was entitled to claim extras in respect of the alterations of the "Delta" plan; so that his views would be colored, at that time, with the belief that he had a good ground of action against the corporation, and would be entitled to heavy damages. A lawsuit had been brought, and the result had been that Mr. Bourne had found his mistake. The arbitrators thought there had been no alteration of the "Delta" plan, and in their award his remuneration was assessed by them on that basis. But the Colonial Treasurer had not put it that an alteration had been made in the design; merely that the corporation should comply with the Brisbane Bridge Act, and to alter the structure to that enormous extent which he (Mr. Lilley) shewed in his speech in 1869. He was surprised that the Government of the day had been guilty of the gross dereliction of duty which had been admitted by the Treasurer, of not approving of plans, and permitting the corporation to go on for so long. Of course, the Attorney-General was not responsible for that; because he was a dummy in that Government. It would be very wrong indeed to charge him, because he was then merely filling a place, as the honorable member for Western Downs, Mr. Ramsay, was, now. There was reason to believe that the Government was in the hands of the honorable members for West Moreton and Ipswich; and, therefore, the present motion ought to be regarded as a Government measure. The Brisbane Bridge Act provided that the plans should be approved of by the Government; the plans had received the approval of the Executive Council, the work proceeded, and, at a subsequent period, the Treasurer objected, and required certain modifications to be made,

"to bring the design more in accordance with the requirements of the Bridge Act, so far as it relates to the navigation of the river by sea-going vessels."

It was upon that alteration he (Mr. Lilley) argued in 1869, when he brought in a Bill to remedy the position of the corporation, by relieving it from the difficulty it was in, or to compel the parties connected with the contract to complete the bridge. He was not aware, that when he made his statements the honorable member for Northern Downs made any objection to them; not a word. Yet he had had the opportunity.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: He did contradict them elsewhere, although not upon that occasion.

Mr. LILLEY: The impression was clear in his mind. The demand was for an alteration

of no value. It was well known that, oftentimes, contractors—he did not say respectable contractors—depended on a departure from plans, in order to get extras, to pay them upon the whole work. Shrewd and skilled business men had been known to take contracts, when it was obvious there must be extras; and, many times, they could not have undertaken the work, but for the chance of profit upon those extras. There was no doubt about it, the people of Brisbane had been very unjustly treated; and they were quite entitled, at the hands of the House and the country, if there was a Government not under influence, to some measure of recompense. A very unjust spirit had been displayed by some Governments towards the corporation and the citizens of Brisbane. Take the railway, for instance:—It was constantly re-echoed through the colony, that Brisbane asked for too much; that Brisbane had all the advantage of the railway; and the Government organs took up the cry. They did not know that the people of Brisbane were not at all responsible for the railway policy, and that they never received any advantage from it. On the contrary, the people of Brisbane were heavily taxed for it, and they did not enjoy it. But the cry was, "Brisbane centralization!" "Brisbane absorption!" "Brisbane extravagance!" as if Brisbane was responsible for the undertaking, and the people advocates of the original railway policy. They suffered more than any other portion of the colony, now, by the non-completion of the railway to the city. They had to pay, but they had no advantage for what they paid. The extreme party of Ipswich—there were some, there, who held enlightened views—pointed to what Brisbane enjoyed in the public buildings and in the salaries of the public officers; and even the Minister for Works indulged in the same strain. How could Brisbane help that? There must be a Parliament House. It might have been in Ipswich. As it was, that national work was in Brisbane, and the city had got from that the expenditure of £100,000. But it was known that a large portion of the unsold lands within the corporation boundaries had been wrested from Brisbane, which, in other municipalities, went to make the streets. Was that fair, while the streets of the metropolis required to be made for the traffic upon them? What were the lands taken for? To endow a national work. That injustice had been to some slight extent repaired by the present Government. They were erecting a public building, now—the Post Office. But did that recoup the citizens or make up for the loss of the corporation? The money was spent in the city; that was all. He (Mr. Lilley) must do the Treasurer the justice to say that he was not a party to the injustice of taking away the lands; the honorable gentleman had protested against it. Those notorious acts were done against the city, and for what purpose? What was the motive

that influenced men in working so hard against Brisbane? Because she enjoyed the position of the capital of the colony. That might have occurred to any other town in the colony. There could not be a capital in every town of the colony. There might yet be a district capital in every district. There was some advantage in the slight expenditure that took place in the city from its being the seat of Government. But was that any reason why Brisbane should not enjoy its share of the advantages of railway communication, for which it paid so much? Was that any reason why it should be literally cut off from the rest of the colony? It was absurd that it should be so. He did not believe that any person professing to understand the subject, and having any regard for his public duty, could entertain such paltry notions towards one town of the colony. Had the Brisbane members at any time denied justice to Ipswich and West Moreton? He was not aware that he, for one, had ever refused to them the fullest measure of justice. Even when they were pulling as hard as they could against Brisbane, he was always ready to do them justice, as much as to his own constituents and the rest of the colony. He believed he constantly told the people of the Valley and of Brisbane, that, although the members of other districts might seek to inflict injustice upon them, the better course was to do what was just for those particular districts. He never denied what was just to any part of the colony, simply because justice was refused to Brisbane, if he could avoid it. But there was a point at which resistance would be cowardice. There was a point when a man would rise in revolution against injustice inflicted upon him, and when some measure of retaliation would be given. He warned honorable members opposite, the representatives of Ipswich and West Moreton. There was no use denying it; they were the Government. The Government were as completely under their control as if Ministers were children in fear of being whipped. He advised them to take care lest the country, whose true interests they were opposing, should deal out to them some measure of injustice in retaliation for their action. He would be no party to it, though, perhaps, he should not be able to help it, notwithstanding the narrow-minded obstruction they offered to the true progress and welfare of the colony. But he confessed that he should not be surprised if a spirit not disposed to be kindly should be manifested towards efforts made hereafter for the benefit of those districts. He would endeavor to prevent it. He repeated it in all kindness to those honorable members, in order that they should be prepared lest some very unjust measure should be meted out to them for their obstruction to the course of public business, that business being what the country demanded. With regard to this Victoria Point, which he had almost for-

gotten, if the question was a matter of half-a-crown only, it was almost a pity to occupy time discussing it. He could make more than that in the time, and he might as well give the honorable member for West Moreton, Mr. Ferrett, half-a-crown to get what he wanted. What was the use of the honorable member making the motion? He was a member of the Government; why could he not go and order the return? It was as simple as possible. He (Mr. Lilley) was quite sure that if any one of the six members for Ipswich and West Moreton went to the Government clerks, they would obey him. If the honorable member, Mr. Ferrett, himself went, they would tremble. They did not care for the Premier now; they did not care for Bell, or for the Minister for Works; and, as for his friend, the Minister for Lands, who would not be hard upon anyone—

Mr. ATKIN: He was one of the six.

Mr. LILLEY: It was they who were the Government, and they could get what they required from any of the Government offices. Could not the honorable member, instead of making such a motion, go to that friend, Gregory, who, with his hat in his hand, perhaps on his knees, would furnish anything that the honorable member asked for, and—if he only demanded it with his gruff voice and his majestic manner—he would get all the information about Victoria Point, not only a sketch, but colored. There was not an official in the country at the present moment who would not tremble in the presence of the honorable member for West Moreton, Mr. Ferrett. Just conceive that, in that gigantic form of Ferrett, there was centred the present policy of Queensland! There was one man who could start the railways and make the public works: that was, supposing Ferrett were to desert the Government. Suppose that his (Mr. Lilley's) honorable friend should leave Cribb; what would become of Ministers? He (Mr. Lilley) was taller than the honorable member, and he had been talking for days; but he could not get the Government to give him a railway. But, if the honorable member were to clap his hands and say, "Railways!" they would come direct to him. Look at the mighty six! He did not believe there was any amount of degradation that the Ministry would not endure at the hands of the members for Ipswich and West Moreton; they would take any insults from them; they exhibited such a spirit of meekness, of Christian fortitude, of long suffering, that it would be a pity to deprive them of their places. He felt every sympathy with them; and he felt compunction that he should be the instrument, with the assistance of the gallant band behind him on the Opposition benches, of depriving honorable gentlemen opposite of the cosy position which they so much valued, and tenaciously held. Would any Government in the world, with such a majority,

unable to carry on the business of the country, positively blocked, with such a power of opposition against them as was against them in this House, with all the people outside demanding the policy of railway extension, north and south, east and west;—would any other Government stick, and, for the sake of place—because it could be nothing else—hold on and refuse to carry out the wishes of the country, under such circumstances? He did not believe there were six gentlemen in Her Majesty's dominions who would be found willing to undergo such humiliation; or, to do such a thing as to occupy the places of Ministers, and to set themselves against the wishes of the people. It could not be the ability of the present Government, or their brains, that warranted them in doing so, or a desire to oppose the wishes of the people; it was love of place; and he (Mr. Lilley) could conceive of no other motive for their conduct. It seemed to him that, if he were where they were, unless he had some overpowering conviction that he was right, he would yield to the pressure upon him. Who were the best judges of what they required? The people themselves. Why should the Government, as such, oppose the policy which the people urged with such excellent reason and force? It seemed to him, simply for no other reason than that they were anxious to hold on to their places; or, for want of a better explanation, that they had got themselves into such a difficult position, that, with all their boasted generalship, they could not get out of it. They were like rats in a trap. They had no honesty, or grace, or skill, or decency, to get out of their position. If they could only get rid of that amendment of the honorable member for Leichhardt, Mr. Scott, they would be right. He (Mr. Lilley) advised them to come down like men, and ask the House to rescind that amendment. Let them say they had sinned, and that they were very anxious to remain in office. But, then, what of the six? Once the Ministry lost them, they were undone. Unless they hung on by the skirts of their coats, they were lost. Unless they were covered by the commercial firm of Cribb and Foote, they were hopeless. That was the reason why the Ministry held out so foolishly against the people—against a majority as the people were represented in the House.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS said he had not spoken before, although his temper had been tried several times; but he wished to say, once for all, that the Ministry would be the veriest curs upon earth if they submitted, after all the bad language that had been used and the defiance held towards them. It was not the first time, as he had had occasion to say before, that he had heard the honorable member for Fortitude Valley use such language. He well remembered, when he was a new member, that that honorable gentleman had come down and hurled the

same language at honorable members, and talked about their humiliation. He was not accustomed to it then; but now he knew it was common to the honorable member. The Ministry would be very dogs, they would be curs—to quote the elegant terms that had been used in this debate—if they submitted to mere bad language, to mere defiance; because they had been told they were not honest, and all that sort of thing. The honorable member for Fortitude Valley knew very well that he was at liberty, in the House, to use what language he thought fit; but it did not at all carry conviction with it. Every member of the Government was influenced by a sense of public duty, and by a certain amount of dignity that every man must possess, if he was a man at all. Talk about gentlemen!—it was not a question of gentlemanliness, at all; it was a question of manhood;—when the Ministry were told that they were not honest, that they were not this nor that, that they must do this, that, and the other, it would not be decent of them to succumb to such language. It was for them to look if they were honest, and see if they were doing right for the country; and they were doing right, in spite of all that the honorable member for Fortitude Valley threw in their faces so continuously. That honorable member ought to be the last man in the House to talk of humiliation. Did the members of the present Ministry ever hurl such language at him, when they did really see him in a humiliating position? The honorable member himself did certainly get into a fix, and certainly he resigned; and he could not help it. The present Government were not in such a fix. The other evening, a great constitutional lawyer told the House that Her Majesty would send a Minister about his business if he had not a majority to command at his back. Look at the history of England, and he would find that one of the greatest statesmen England ever had, enjoyed the confidence of his Sovereign and transacted the business of the country for long, though the majority of the House of Commons was against him.

The Hon. R. PRING: If, by a "great constitutional lawyer," the Minister for Lands meant him, he must tell the honorable gentlemen, in explanation, that what he had said, was, that the Queen of England would not permit a Minister with a majority of one at his back to carry on, and the whole English people against him. The latter words he had used, which made all the difference; as it did, that the people of this country were against the Government.

The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC LANDS: The honorable gentleman could say what he liked. The case did not arise. Neither the people of England nor the people of the colony were at his back; nor were the whole of the constituencies. That was the question—the constituencies; not the people of the colony.

Mr. THORN: This House is the people.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: All those taunts were quite thrown away. He was sorry that honorable members on the other side had so acted as to forego principle, to give up truth, in order to indulge in such taunts. The same bad language could be used over and over again. He could accuse the honorable member of being capable of stooping to the lowest degradation, of being dishonest, of bribing the public. But what would be the effect? The *mens conscia recti*, he had, no doubt supported the honorable member. It supported the present Government, and would support them; and all the froth and fury, all the curses, that had been used would not hurt them, but would return upon the heads of those who uttered them.

MR. ATKIN said, after the Premier and the Treasurer had got into such a fix that they had lost all recollection of the discussion—he was not surprised at it, they had been hammered so hard—he was sorry for them—he must congratulate the House that the Opposition had, at last, roused the dormant lion that had been slumbering in the breast of the Minister for Lands. For weeks they had not been able to get an expression of any kind from that honorable member, and at last his manhood was touched by the accusation that he was hanging on to the skirts of the senior member of the political firm that ruled the country. The honorable gentleman had spoken in that happy way he had of sneering at the “great constitutional lawyer,” and he had quoted, as an instance that justified the conduct of the Government in holding on to office when they were unable to do the business of the country, the conduct of one of the greatest statesmen of England, Pitt, who, he said, had for years conducted the Government with a majority of the House of Commons against him. When the honorable gentleman taunted another honorable member with a want of knowledge of constitutional law, he might, at least, himself shew as much knowledge of English history as a boy of ten years old should possess, to save him from a whipping. To shew how perfectly it suited the argument, Mr. Pitt was not three months Premier of England in a minority. He took office on the occasion of the India Bill being thrown out by the Lords, which Bill had been brought forward by the Coalition Government of Fox and Lord North. When he met the House, there was a majority against him; but Pitt refused to dissolve Parliament until he had passed certain measures which were required. He held on for three months, backed by the voice of the whole country. Petitions poured in from every corporation that was not a pocket borough, from every town, throughout almost the United Kingdom, and from the great city of London, praying that Parliament might be dissolved, and assuring Mr. Pitt that he would be returned

with a great majority at his command. He chose his own time, and he appealed to the country; and he returned to Parliament after the elections, with such a majority that he was able to wield supreme power in the State for seventeen years. He held on for a few months, after his accession to office, in spite of a factious and corrupt combination—such as he (Mr. Atkin) saw an example of in this Assembly, on the Ministerial side of the House—who had been hurling charges of all sorts against one another and then taken office together, and whose combination had so disgusted the people of England by its profligacy that they returned a majority in his favor such as no other Minister ever had before when he appealed to the country; so much so, that it was stated by one of the Whigs that the whole Opposition could be driven in one hackney coach. So much for the Minister for Land’s historical knowledge. He (Mr. Atkin) hoped the honorable gentleman would not be so unfortunate again. However, they had got very far from Victoria Point. It was extremely unfortunate that he should have been the first to allude to the action of the Colonial Treasurer. What had followed was only another instance of what was likely to result from that unhappy tendency of the honorable gentleman to allow himself to be persuaded by the person who last had his ear. The confession made by the honorable gentleman as to the action of that Government of which he had been a member was most humiliating. There was an old adage, which ran “When rogues fall out, honest men come by their own.” The House had heard the story from the honorable member for Brisbane, Dr. O’Doherty, who had been an humble follower of that celebrated political firm in Ipswich—when he was hanging on by the coat-tails of the father of the family, and was an instrument in that iniquitous action which had been carried out by the Treasurer at the beck and call of the Ipswich and West Moreton clique. They all knew perfectly well that the honorable member for Ipswich, Mr. Cribb, the political father of the family, the head of the firm, was exceedingly fond of keeping in the back ground; they had heard all about the electoral roll, the register for dead-men; he was the motive power; he was behind the scenes and made the puppets dance accordingly as he willed. After that candid confession of his sins by the honorable member for Brisbane, no doubt his friends would grant him absolution. But, now they knew all about how the deputation had come down from Ipswich to the Treasurer and got him to interfere with the bridge, because they required vessels from the sea to go up there. The House had heard the confession of the Treasurer, as a member of the Government, that the Government had allowed the corporation to go on and spend money on a plan which had been approved of, and, then, when their eyes had been opened—when those Ipswich patriots came down—

THE COLONIAL TREASURER: He had made no such allusion. He had said that the plans which had been adopted by the corporation were, in the first instance, approved by the Government; and that the corporation had worked upon plans, for eleven or twelve months, which were never seen or approved by the Government.

MR. ATKIN: That was what he said.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER: The honorable member must be aware of what he had said before. If he had not explained himself clearly, that was what he meant; and his honorable colleague, the Attorney-General, had put it plainly before the House, that the original plans, which had been formally approved of by the Government, were not the plans which the corporation subsequently carried out the contract upon.

MR. ATKIN: Well, that was the greatest charge the honorable member could bring against himself and the Government that had shewn such supineness.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER: The Government knew nothing about it.

MR. ATKIN: They ought to have known.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER: The honorable member for South Brisbane knew.

MR. ATKIN: The debate shewed that a Nemesis would surely overtake honorable members who acted as the Treasurer had done. There could be no mistake about what the honorable member for Fortitude Valley had said; he was perfectly correct in stating that the Government of this country was carried on by an Ipswich political firm. The honorable member for West Moreton, Mr. Ferrett, and the senior member, Mr. Cribb, had charge of Government measures. Where was all the manhood that the Minister for Lands had talked about so forcibly? The Ministry were simply at the beck and call of six men of Ipswich and West Moreton. If they had a majority in the House, why did they not shew fight? They had let the Opposition carry the motion for closing the committee on their own Bill; and then, at the suggestion of the honorable member for Fortitude Valley, they had moved the adjournment of the House, without having done any business. They had shewn themselves the veriest curs. After their conduct during the past fortnight, they must have arrived at a state of mind in which it was impossible they could have such a keen sense of humiliation as other men would have. The Government must be thoroughly wanting in self-respect. Such conduct was sufficient to call down upon them the universal condemnation of the country, spite of the *Queensland Times*, which said a reaction had set in favorable to the Ministry.

MR. CRIBB expressed a hope that the honorable member for South Brisbane would see that all the puffing in favor of his firm would be put in the Brisbane newspaper, because he could not wish for a better advertisement than it got from the honorable members on the Opposition side of the House.

MR. STEPHENS: If the honorable member would pay for it, he could have it all as an advertisement.

MR. THORN declared that he was not ruled by any firm in the colony. Before the House were formed into distinct parties, he had voted as often and as conscientiously as anybody with the honorable members for East Moreton; but when he came to see the business of the country delayed by a factious opposition—when he came to hear the clap-trap that was advanced from time to time, night after night—he could arrive at no other conclusion than that all the other side was anxious about was to take their places on the Ministerial benches. As a constitutional matter, he stated that the Government of Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli had held office for two years, with a minority in the House of Commons of fifteen or sixteen; and he held that a majority of one in this Assembly was equal to a majority of twenty in the House of Commons. The late Lord Palmerston had carried on the Government of Great Britain for nearly twenty years with only twenty of a majority at his back. It was absurd for honorable members on the Opposition side of the House to say that they were a majority, because they represented the majority of the people. The Assembly was the country. He believed that the only member of the Opposition who would crush the Government, if he could, was the honorable member for Wide Bay, who was the only spiteful one amongst them. The House knew very well that the two legal members for Fortitude Valley and North Brisbane would not hold the language they did in the House but for the Reform League. They rose to speak, not to the House, but to the gallery. They were anxious to have the affections of the visitors in the gallery who listened to them; they knew that their political existence hung upon the citizens, and that unless they advocated the railway question strongly, to get money spent in Brisbane, they were done. But he (Mr. Thorn) did not believe they were sincere in that object; if they had a chance, to-morrow, they would secede. They must keep well with the shopkeepers outside, who gave them directions, and they must obey. As to the bridge, he knew very well that it had been commenced, but not proceeded with, in accordance with the Act; and the obstruction to carrying it out according to the Act was the honorable member for South Brisbane, who wished to impede the navigation of the river to Ipswich. It was discovered in time; and the members for Ipswich found it out. He was not sure, but it might be advisable to make a charge for the admission of strangers to the gallery; and they might thereby add something to the revenue. The proceedings of the House had such attractions for the public of Brisbane, that the galleries were crowded every night. Now, that could not fail to injure both the theatres in the city, and

to such an extent that it would not be possible to get what in theatrical parlance were called stars to come here from the other colonies. The majority of one had been referred to over and over again, but honorable members should bear in mind that a majority of one in this House was equal to a majority of twenty in the House of Commons; and the late Lord Palmerston, with a smaller majority than that, carried on the Government of Great Britain for several years.

Mr. MILES said that some honorable members on the Government side of the House had denied that the firm of Cribb and Foote exercised any great influence in the elections for Ipswich and West Moreton; but it was quite well known that no one could get returned for either of those electorates without the support of Cribb and Foote. Why, even the honorable the Speaker himself had at one time to go to them for their support. He believed that that firm had the whole of the farmers of West Moreton in their hands. This debate had taken a very peculiar turn. The question originally before the House was for returns as regarded soundings in the Bay, and the alienation of Crown lands in the neighborhood of Cleveland and Point Victoria; but honorable members had fallen into a discussion on the railway question, and the construction of the Brisbane bridge. He remembered the time when deputations came down from Ipswich day after day almost about local works, until they got what they wanted; and now the members for West Moreton and Ipswich did all in their power to retard, and had always done all in their power to retard, the construction of the Brisbane bridge. The country was saddled with the expense of a costly bridge for Ipswich, and now everything in their power was done by the people of Ipswich and their members, aided by the members for West Moreton, to oppose the building of the Brisbane bridge. Ever since Separation, the members for those two electorates had ruled the colony; but the day was not far distant, he thought, when a change would take place. He thought that in the construction of a railway from Ipswich to Brisbane, £250,000 would be well spent, in order to break up the Ipswich Band of Hope. The honorable member for West Moreton, Mr. Thorn, had said that a charge should be made for admission to the galleries of the House. Well, that was just such a proposition as might be expected to come from him; but the Parliament Buildings were the property of the public, and the public had, therefore, a perfect right to come here when they wished, without any charge whatever.

Mr. FORBES said that, as one of the members for West Moreton, he felt it to be his duty to offer his thanks to the honorable members on the Opposition side of the House for the encomiums they had passed upon what they were pleased to call the Ipswich clique. He did not think there had ever been so many

or so high encomiums passed upon any members as had been passed upon the Ipswich members in the course of the present debate. But there was a limit to the style of language which had been used, and he thought that the limit had been reached as regarded the members for Ipswich and West Moreton—if it had not already degenerated into abusiveness. As to the motion before the House, the returns asked for would cost a mere trifle; but as soon as Victoria Point was mentioned and referred to as a place for a suitable port for this portion of Queensland, honorable members on the Opposition side of the House at once rose up against the motion. It was said that Victoria Point was a place where deep water or blue water existed. Well, he did not know much about it; and there were other members on the other side of the House who perhaps knew as little about it as he did. He remembered the time when Cleveland Bay was held up as being the place that should be made the principal shipping port of Queensland; and it had also been urged that Sandgate should be the port. An honorable member at that time, Mr. Douglas, he believed, referred to the matter as being worthy of the attention of the House; and in doing so stated that it would be impossible to make Brisbane a great commercial port without the expenditure of a large amount of money, which would be a lasting and burdensome debt upon the colony for many years. A great deal had been said against the Ipswich clique as to their support originally to the railway policy; but honorable members seemed to have forgotten that some members of the so-called Ipswich clique lost their seats through their opposition to the extension of the railway. Now that being the case, he felt at liberty to speak on the question, as he had always pursued the same course in the matter, and for the same reasons. The question of railway extension was, at the time he referred to, placed before the House on false premises. It was placed before the House without sufficient data to shew how the extensions proposed could be carried out. Something of the same kind was the case at the present time with respect to the railway extensions now proposed. No statements of facts had been advanced to shew that the line would pay, nor whence the revenue might be derived to meet the cost of construction. For his own part he had no objection to the railway being extended from Ipswich to Brisbane, if provisions were made to meet the interest on the cost of its construction. In the course of this debate it had been stated that no one could be returned for the representation of Ipswich or West Moreton, unless they had the influence of Cribb and Foote with them. Now, he most emphatically denied the accuracy of that statement; and other honorable members could fully bear him out in making that denial. But as to the members of that firm, he must say that if Cribb and Foote held a position of such importance as had been

attributed to them, it was all the more creditable to them. The Brisbane bridge question had, amongst other matters, been referred to in the course of this discussion. Now, he was a member of the House when it was stated that £15,000 would be sufficient for the construction of the bridge. He was not a member of the House at the time the alteration of the bridge plans was made; but it had, he thought, been sufficiently explained already, that the alterations were owing to the Corporation of Brisbane, and not to the Government. He had no objection to the construction of the bridge, if it could be shewn how the interest on the cost of construction could be paid; nor had he any objection to the extension of the railway from Ipswich to Brisbane, if it could be shewn to him that the interest on the cost of the line would be met by those who derived the benefit of the line. He should be well pleased to assist in affording the inhabitants of Brisbane the pleasure of hearing the railway whistle, but only in accordance with a principle that would devolve the burden of the interest or cost of construction on the district through which the line might pass. He thought that lands, to a certain extent, on both sides of the line, should be specially taxed for it. He did not see why the coast towns should be taxed for what was merely a local work—a work that was not of a national character, and the advantages of which would not extend to the whole of the colony.

Mr. MORGAN said that the motion before the House was one that asked for certain returns; but the speakers who had previously addressed the House had wandered away from the subject. As he had not yet addressed the House on the motion or the amendment, he might be permitted now to refer to the matter. He thought that the honorable member for West Moreton, Mr. Thorn, had been very disrespectful to the House, in comparing it to a theatre, for the entertainment of the public. Now, it came very badly from that honorable member to make any such comparison, seeing that he had made the House a place of many theatrical displays, during the time they had been living under what had been called a humdrum Ministry; who would do nothing when there were a great many laborers going about the country in quest of employment, and could get nothing to do. But while that was the case the price of land was reduced as regarded the squatters, in order to enable them to meet the difficulties in which they were placed; and a Bill had been again brought in to provide for a further reduction of their rents. Now, that, he maintained, was all owing to the present humdrum Government. If the colony was to progress, as they all wished it should, and as it ought to do, they must have railway extension and immigration to a reasonable extent, and provide immigrants on their arrival here with increased facilities for settling on the lands of the

colony. As to the motion before the House, he felt that he must vote for the amendment brought forward by the honorable member for South Brisbane, and it was his intention to do so.

Mr. KING said that one honorable member of the Ministry had characterised the objections to the motion by members of the Opposition as all froth and fury. Well, that might or might not be the case. But he must say that he did not see there was a single point of argument in the speech of the honorable the Minister for Lands, who made the accusation, that bore out the statement. The honorable member compared the position of the present Government with the British Government under Mr. Pitt; and from that comparison, he held that it would be manly for the Government to hold on to office. But he forgot to state that when Mr. Pitt took office, he did so under very particular and difficult circumstances. He took office when he knew there was a majority against him; and he had to contend single-handed against that majority. He held office under such circumstances for four months in order to preserve the security of the nation, and he then dissolved the House in order to test the opinion of the public of Great Britain; and the election that subsequently took place gave him a large majority. There could not, therefore, be any comparison instituted between the two cases. Mr. Pitt took action for the welfare of the nation, at a critical period; and having accomplished his object, he appealed to the country for their verdict, and was sustained in the course he had pursued by a large majority. Therefore, he was justified in holding on to office; but did the present Ministry intend to hold on to office, while they did nothing? The whole colony, he maintained, had decisively pronounced against the present Ministry. The present Ministry had brought forward a Bill for Additional Representation; and what was that but a complete confession that the Ministry felt they did not possess the confidence of the country, sufficiently to feel assured that on an appeal to the country they would be returned with a majority? Under the pretence of bringing forward a measure for the amendment of the Constitution Act, so far as regarded an Additional Members Bill, the Ministry proposed to reconstruct the whole of the constituencies of the colony; but they proposed to do so in a way that would secure to themselves a few pocket boroughs. The honorable member for North Brisbane, Mr. Pring, had most definitely stated, that Her Majesty the Queen would not allow the Government of Great Britain to be carried on by a majority of the House of Commons, equivalent to a majority of one in this House; and that Her Majesty would not allow any Ministry to continue to hold office with only such a proportionate majority. It had, during the discussion, been attempted to be shewn that a majority of one here was

equal to a majority of twenty in the House of Commons. Well, there had been several Ministries in the colony since Separation which had only had a majority of one; but he was not aware that any of them had attempted to carry on the Government with such a majority. Then, again, he maintained that, in reality, the Ministry did not possess a majority. There were, at the present time, six Ministers of the Crown; but two of the honorable gentlemen holding office formerly protested, and that strongly, against the appointment of a fifth Minister; and even went so far as to say that it was dangerous to the welfare of the colony to have a fifth Minister appointed. But those honorable members made no objection now to there being six Ministers. Well, if the additional members of the Ministry were sincere in their former professions, they must now admit that in reality the present Ministry, instead of being in a majority of one, were in a minority of one. He thought the honorable member for West Moreton must now be satisfied with the amount of discussion that had taken place on his motion; and as the discussion on the general question of railway extension could be resumed on any other motion—such as the one standing on the business paper relating to the sale of the steamer “Governor Blackall”—he would move, as an amendment, that the debate be now adjourned.

Mr. FERRETT said that it had afforded him much satisfaction to find that he had succeeded by this motion in bringing out the views of some honorable members on the Opposition side of the House, with respect to the matter of railway extension. He referred especially to the honorable member for Drayton and Toowoomba, and the honorable member for Wide Bay. It might be all very well, if a line was constructed to the Bay, to have a branch line from the main line to Brisbane; but to construct a main line to Brisbane, and to so deepen the river as to make Brisbane of any use as the port to a main terminus, would cost ten times as much as it would cost to carry a line direct to the Bay. The honorable member for Toowoomba did not seem to believe in that. As to the honorable member for Wide Bay, it had always appeared to him that that gentleman was under the thumb of a clique, and he was now more convinced of it than ever. What could it matter to the honorable member, if he, Mr. Ferrett, obtained the returns he now asked for, and which, as had been said, could be furnished at comparatively little expense? Such a return as he asked for, might turn out to be of benefit to the whole country. He had not the slightest idea when he brought forward this motion, that it would meet with so much opposition as it had met with, and which he could only liken to a storm in a teapot. He thought that honorable members opposite must be afraid of something or

other when they made such a bluster about the Government being asked to furnish a sketch of a portion of Moreton Bay. He could not consent to the amendment. He thought that it must have been brought forward for the purpose of shelving the whole question, and with the view of preventing the sketch being laid on the table of the House. He very much regretted that honorable members had spent so much valuable time in talking in so diffuse a way as they had done on such a motion as the one now before the House. If those honorable members who opposed the motion could shew him that it would be for the benefit of the country that he should not have this sketch which he now asked for, he might at once agree with them and withdraw the motion. But they had not done so; and his own impression was that it would be for the benefit of the country that he should have this sketch. He totally denied that he had consulted the Ministry in this matter, or that he had brought forward the motion as a Ministerial motion. He was not one of those who went cringing to any Ministry, and when they did not get all they wanted from the Government of the day went across to the other side of the House.

Mr. GROOM said that he had been accused by an honorable member on the Government side of the House of having, at a meeting at Ipswich, advocated the extension of the railway to Victoria Point. Now, that was not the case. The fact was that at the meeting at Ipswich referred to he was asked to support a motion for the extension of the line to Victoria Point, and he said he would not do so. It had also been said that he was at the beck of a Brisbane clique. Now, that accusation was also unfounded. He had held a seat in the House for the last nine years—in fact, since the establishment of Parliamentary Government here—and he could honestly say that, during the whole of that time, he had never been at the beck of any one. More than that, he could tell the honorable member who made the accusation that he did not hold any lands that had been obtained by dummieing, and that he had never discharged any white men from his employment and replaced them with black men. He held his seat in that house as an independent member of an independent constituency, who desired to see the Parliament of the country take such steps as were calculated to promote the welfare of the colony. As to the Government having a majority of one on the railway question, he denied that such was the case, inasmuch as there were seventeen members returned at the late general election pledged to support railway extension. He should certainly oppose the motion of the honorable member for West Moreton, for he could not help thinking that it had only been brought forward for the purpose of obstructing the construction of the railway from Ipswich to Brisbane. At the meeting which was held in Ipswich, and which had

been referred to with respect to the matter of railway extension, it seemed that the speakers could not find language strong enough to denounce, to the satisfaction of their audience, what was called the Brisbane clique and the Brisbane monopolists. The honorable member for West Moreton, Mr. Forbes, spoke in somewhat severe terms with respect to Mr. O'Sullivan, on that occasion. Now, he maintained, that if the honorable member had to go back to his constituents, Mr. O'Sullivan, should he oppose him, would defeat him by a large majority. Mr. O'Sullivan had proved himself to be a most valuable member of society, and one who had rendered much good service to the colony when he held a seat in the Legislative Assembly. It was well known that the honorable member for West Moreton, Mr. Thorn, would not have held a seat in the House but for the assistance he obtained through the influence of Mr. O'Sullivan; and that was when the honorable member succeeded in defeating the honorable member, Mr. Forbes, who was now his colleague. The discussion had, no doubt, assumed a very broad aspect; and he did not see why it should not have done so. He was inclined, at first, to resist the motion of the honorable member for Rockhampton, but as the Government had accepted it as a formal motion, as a matter of money due, he did not oppose it. But upon the present motion, he did not see why the same course should be followed. Let the "Governor Blackall" remain where she was, now, in the river. When the House heard what the colony was to receive from the Government in the shape of railway extension and public works, they could consider other matters. It was evident that now everything was at a stand-still, except in one way. The Polynesians were coming to the colony very rapidly; and no encouragement was given for a white population for Queensland. But once have railway extension, and the opening up of the lands, the Darling Downs would soon be occupied by white people. He knew it was a sore point to mention the Darling Downs; but there were some of the runs that must be resumed speedily. People had to go out even to the abominable spurs of the Main Range, because they could not get access to the good land where there was so much of it that should be thrown open to settlement. A constituent of the honorable member for Western Downs was desirous to seek a fresh selection because of the way in which his cattle were impounded by the neighboring squatters.

The SPEAKER suggested that the honorable member should keep to the question.

Mr. Groom: That gentleman tried to get three hundred and twenty acres, but, when he went to the land agent, he found that he could not get fifty acres; while, within three or four miles of Drayton and Toowoomba there were thousands of acres of the finest land for agriculture and grazing combined.

There were only a few years of the leases to expire, and the country would never consent to its being locked up again for several years. He (Mr. Groom) thought that the House might just as well continue this debate as to go on to the next motion. The steamer was very well, where she was, and she need not be despaired of. As to the question of Victoria Point, it had not been properly ventilated. He had heard that while there was only sixteen feet of water at the celebrated Point, at the best of times, the chief pilot of Moreton Bay stated, when asked, to-day, what would be the depth of water as soon as the dredging of the Brisbane was completed, that the depth of the river would be sixteen feet six inches. As the House had information that the return moved for could be provided at a cost of a couple of shillings, by the honorable member for West Moreton, Mr. Ferrett, visiting the Port Office, he (Mr. Groom) thought there was no necessity to call upon the tax-payers of the colony to bear that expense; if honorable members would raise a subscription of a penny or two-pence each, they could make the honorable member a present of the return.

Mr. ATKIN urged that the House should come to a decision upon the motion, he being desirous that they should go on with the next one standing in the name of Mr. Ferrett, as it would be extremely discourteous to the honorable member, the seventh member of the Executive, not to allow him an opportunity to display his nautical knowledge. He had come down to the House like another Commodore Truncheon, and he talked of charts and channels, and other matters—of which he knew little—having got some of his terms on a visit which he paid in the course of the day on board the "Governor Blackall." The honorable member had gone completely over the ship, and no doubt "spliced the main brace"; and he (Mr. Atkin) was anxious to have some of his nautical experience. Besides, he regarded the next motion as another Government measure with which the honorable member was charged.

Question, for the adjournment of the debate, put and negatived.

Question then—That the words proposed to be inserted be so inserted (Mr. Stephen's motion)—put and passed.

Whereupon, question, as amended, put and passed.

SUPPOSED REMAINS OF LEICHHARDT.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, in laying on the table a report from the Medical Society upon the bones found by Sub-Inspector Gilmour, as the matter was somewhat important and of public interest, said that, without troubling the House with the medical terms, the result of the inquiry was—that the bones were part of an adult aboriginal, and part of a young aboriginal.

ADJOURNMENT.

MR. KING rose to move the adjournment of the House. The next motion on the paper could hardly be considered anything but a Ministerial measure for the sale of the steamer "Governor Blackall," which was Government property. He reminded honorable members that, last session, the Colonial Secretary expressed a doubt as to the course the Government would pursue with the steamer. And, now, a motion was brought forward for selling her by one of the nominal members of the Ministry—it might be, one of the real members of the Ministry. That being so, he maintained that the motion should be considered on a Government day; and he hoped the House would resist any attempt to bring forward Government motions on a day set apart by the sessional order for general business, or the business of non-official members. Since the honorable member for West Moreton, Mr. Ferrett, undertook the parentage of a great deal of the Government business, it was only fair that he should choose a Government day for it. Indeed, he (Mr. King) did not see why the honorable member should not have a Ministerial appointment, as the acknowledged number of Ministers was increased beyond that which honorable gentlemen on the Treasury benches had thought too many when they were not sitting there. The House ought to be careful for the independence of the Legislature. It was formerly pointed out that five Ministers in a House of thirty-two members were too many for the independence of the Legislature; but, now, there were six acknowledged members of the Government.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Sixteen.

MR. KING: He thought it would be a very proper reward for them, to give them Ministerial appointments, for there were some who would probably offend their constituents by their course of conduct, and they might never in the future have any chance of taking a seat on the Ministerial benches; and it would be a graceful act on the part of the Premier. It would also place the honorable members for Ipswich and West Moreton in their true position in the House. Those members who exercised such power in the House and the country that they played with the Ministers as puppets, should have some external honor. If the whole sixteen should not be placed there, the six should be on the Treasury bench, in order that they might bring forward Bills and motions as Ministerial measures in appearance as well as in reality.

MR. THORN deprecated the frequent speeches of the honorable member for Wide Bay, and charged him with having deserted his colors, while the honorable member was, he said, one who twitted others with being deserters. If that honorable member was faithful to the principles which he had enunciated on the hustings, and in the House, at first, he would be sitting on the Ministerial side and not

with the Opposition. It was now his duty to go before his constituents, and learn what they had to say of his conduct—if they would approve of it. If the honorable member had not ratted, the Government would have a majority of three. He (Mr. Thorn) questioned, if the honorable member shewed his nose to the electors of Wide Bay, that they would return him again. The honorable member for Northern Downs, after accepting the office of Treasurer, was returned without opposition; but the honorable member for Wide Bay would never be so returned after his conduct. He (Mr. Thorn) challenged the honorable member for Wide Bay, seeing that he was opposing the Government policy altogether, which was suicidal for him, to say whether he would vote for railway extension. He knew very well that he dare not; and he had not yet given any expression of opinion upon the railway policy which the Opposition went in for. If he did, he would be called upon to resign.

MR. LILEY considered that the honorable member for Wide Bay had taken the correct course. It seemed to him that the House would see very likely, next day, the honorable member for West Moreton move that Government House, or the Parliament Building, or some other portion of the Government property should be sold. No doubt, if the Premier would get up and say that the honorable members for West Moreton and Ipswich, or, say, Mr. Ferrett, had taken the conduct of the Government business, the House could enter upon the question as to the sale of the "Governor Blackall," with the same freedom and attention as they dealt with any other Ministerial measure. But, then, it must be on a proper day. Let it be on a Government day. During the past few days the Opposition had discussed Government business with the greatest anxiety and temper; they had not shirked a discussion; and their only regret was that the gentlemen whose business they were discussing remained so silent. Just now, the Minister for Lands did come out, and did speak; and, although he was certainly very warm—he was always candid—he confessed that he was angry—yet he (Mr. Lilley) was glad that the honorable gentleman had got so much relief in the early part of the evening; because, there was no telling what might have been the consequence if he had bottled his feelings up much longer. He was a burning fire, a perfect volcano. The honorable member for West Moreton, Mr. Thorn, had indulged, as usual, in an attack upon the honorable member for Wide Bay. Last session, the honorable member devoted himself to his late honorable colleague, the member for South Brisbane. He ran a-muck against somebody. Would the honorable member tell the House what he represented? He sat in the House for West Moreton; but, if Mr. O'Sullivan was right, honorable members might apply to him (Mr. Thorn) the words of the song—

"Down among the dead men!"

He (Mr. Lilley) well remembered Mr. O'Sullivan describing one of the elections for West Moreton, and saying that electors had been brought to the poll who had been dead so long that they had forgotten their names! It must be horrible to be at an election in Ipswich, considering the number of dead men who came to life. One ghost would frighten ordinary people; but, among so many, what could they do? He (Mr. Lilley) recommended the honorable member for West Moreton, Mr. Thorn, to be a little more cautious about what he said. He believed that in the late election the honorable member had been returned by a very serious number of dead men. It would be well to adjourn the House or to proceed with other business which more properly belonged to private members than the sale of the "Governor Blackall"; as he thought it unfair to thrust Government business into the hands of an honorable member for West Moreton, or any other constituency, to take the responsibility off the shoulders of the Ministry. It was the same game the Ministry had been trying on ever since they came into office. They shirked the responsibility which was theirs alone. How could they sit still and get the honorable member for West Moreton to bring forward such an important motion? Notwithstanding what was said last session, the Government dare not sell the steamer! The Colonial Secretary laughed. He would say and do a great deal, but he would never sell her. He sat in his seat and laughed, but he could not get up and speak for the interests of the country. The head of the Government could sit and grin while the colony was in its present position. Could anything be more humiliating? Could any worse spectacle be offered to any people, in any country? Without being utterly ashamed, the Ministry were sitting still in the House, at a time when the whole colony was anxious about its future—about the policy and future action of the Government; and the Government were silent. There was something in that old fellow, Nero, infinitely above such fellows as those. He did fiddle when Rome burned; but those fellows would neither fiddle nor sing, while the country perished. They were dummies. The dummies of the Darling Downs were far more active fellows than the Ministers. They had done something; but all that the dummies in the House seemed willing to do was to keep the little grip they had of their seats, and not to take another step. And what did they not put up with? They reminded him of the fellow who, after an encounter, said of his assailant, "He blacked my eyes, and he pulled my nose—if he had gone much further, I would have shewn him that there was something in me." He (Mr. Lilley) recommended the Government to do their own business in a manly way. There was no bluster in the Premier! Let him tell the House that he was going to do the business of the country. He was fixed! He

had only strength of soul to sit in his seat, and laugh, and hold on; to obstruct the business of the country;—for that was what he was really doing. The Premier knew that he had no right to a dissolution, not the slightest. He who had been so esteemed amongst them all could only hold on, merely for the sake of place and pay. He (Mr. Lilley) had a respect yet for the honorable gentleman, and he hoped the colony would see in him that manliness that was described by the Minister for Lands. He believed and he was satisfied, the honorable gentleman would yet throw up the reins. If the honorable member did not, he kept in office merely to help some of those who were hanging on to his coat tails, as Ministers were hanging on to the coat tails of the honorable member for West Moreton, Mr. Cribb. Could any Ministry have made a greater mistake than this, when they might have had enormous strength at their back—the whole colony—if it were not for sheer fear to step out and trust themselves in the hands of the people, for fear that they would be deserted by the honorable members for Ipswich and West Moreton, and would not be supported by the head of the firm? He (Mr. Lilley) did not think the Premier should attempt to retain office with a majority, which was called a majority of one, upon any ground, political or moral. By every principle which ought to guide such a man, he ought not to attempt it. The House would, he (Mr. Lilley) believed, see a change in the head of the Government before long. The honorable gentleman would throw off the wretched clique. He would shew that he was more manly than, or had quite as much manhood as, the Minister for Lands. He would not sit much longer in the position he was in now. It did him no honor. Premiers had been seen in a similar position before. When the honorable member who now occupied the chair as Speaker had a majority of two, he gave up the government of the colony, because he considered that he had not such a following as he ought to have to carry on the business of the country. That was manly, and he (Mr. Lilley), as Attorney-General, went out with him on that occasion. There were men in office now who were less manly. But there were degrees of manliness. There had been another Premier, with just a majority of one, and he had gone out. Sir Robert Mackenzie had been manly enough, when he found he had not a majority to do the public business, to go out. Did the Premier imagine that he would change the resolution of the minority in opposition? Did he imagine that he would change the feeling of the people outside?

MR. THORN: The policy of the Brisbane clique.

MR. CRIBB: No.

MR. LILLEY: Of course the honorable member said "No." There was a section of Ipswich under his influence, and he believed

that that was the country—that in Ipswich the country lived, moved, and had its being. Why on earth was not the honorable member at the top of the Ministerial benches? Inasmuch as the Government were under his thumb, that was his place; and then the House would see the Government truly represented. They would see the honorable member, Mr. Cribb, laying papers on the table of the House, and taking charge of Ministerial measures. True, it was hard to do it without pay; but it was a friendly arrangement. The other day, the honorable member for Western Downs, Mr. Ramsay, had the pay of Treasurer; he gave it to the honorable member for Northern Downs. That was a kindly way of doing things, when it was desired to buy over anyone. Why should not that be done again? If the honorable member for Ipswich, Mr. Cribb, would not do it, there was the brilliant member for West Moreton, Mr. Ferrett. A noble lord in England, Lord John Russell, was equal to the command of the Channel fleet. Surely the honorable member, Mr. Ferrett, was equal to the command of the "Governor Blackall"! What was better than to send the honorable member, in command of that steamer, down to the Feejees, to cruise amongst the islands and bring back some more niggers. There was instantaneous relief from the difficult position the Government were in; and the thing would be a brilliant success—a feat of generalship that would do credit to the Premier. Send Ferrett away! He (Mr. Lilley) was quite sure the honorable member could get a mate. Send the Attorney-General with him. He did not know whether the honorable and learned gentleman had much skill in nautical affairs; but he was sufficiently learned in the law to tell how to dodge Her Majesty's cruisers. There would be a happy combination! Such a voyage would enable them to bring back such a lot of information from the islands respecting Polynesian kidnapping that we should set at rest the minds of people at home, that this country was not becoming tainted with a slave population. It would be better than appointing Emigration Agents. There was one agent at home, Mr. Archer, who was in favor of black labor, and he had been appointed to get white labor; at all events, he professed to do it, now, while there was a number of vessels chartered to bring black labor to the colony. It was a happy thought, to rig out the "Governor Blackall" as a recruiting vessel;—supply her with irons and wristbands, and go into the thing properly;—it was capital employment for the boat, at once. If the Government were at their wits' end, there was a capital stroke of policy, considering their poverty in that way. There they would find the outward demonstration of their inward longing. Instead of there being honest men on board the state-ship of Queensland, there were pirates, who had hoisted the black flag;—at least, they were

merc slavers! Now, he had supplied the Ministry with an entire policy, though, with the honorable member for West Moreton, Mr. Ferrett, they need not be in want of a policy. He well remembered that beautiful speech of the honorable member on Holloway's pills;—the learning, the knowledge of anatomy, that the honorable member displayed on that memorable morning when the Medical Act was passing, would be creditable to the honorable member for Brisbane, Dr. O'Doherty; it flowed spontaneously in a perfect torrent of wit and eloquence from the honorable member, Mr. Ferrett; and one honorable member was overwhelmed—the Honorable St. George Gore, who was nearly dead with laughter—and he (Mr. Lilley) was sure he was also. At a later hour, he should be glad for the House to hear the re-delivery from memory of that great speech.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said: There was not one man, woman, or child in Queensland, or in the neighboring colonies, who knew better that there was not a particle of truth in the accusations the honorable member for Fortitude Valley had brought against him than the honorable member himself. There was not a man in the House, or the colony, who knew better than he, that when it pleased him (the Colonial Secretary) to speak, he would speak;—and, when the proper time came, he would speak out. But no amount of abuse, no amount of chaff, would make him speak till he chose. And the House had had nothing but chaff all the week; there was no wheat in all that had come from the Opposition side, not even a grain from the celebrated Darling Downs district, amongst oceans of chaff. Nothing of the kind would ever induce him to speak until the proper time had come. He would allow no one to judge what that proper time was, but himself. When he should speak, he would speak to the purpose, and state what he meant. For no shifting, and no party purposes, would he speak or act, and no one knew that better than the honorable member who had just spoken. That honorable member, he was sorry to see, spoke, now, to the galleries rather than to the House. He (the Colonial Secretary) could respect an actor when he played to the boxes, but when he played for the applause of the gallery he set him down as a ranter; and the honorable member for Fortitude Valley had been speaking to the galleries throughout the debate. The honorable member had got very angry with him (the Colonial Secretary) because he laughed at his statement, that he "dare not sell the 'Governor Blackall,'" but if the honorable member had said they could not, he would have been nearer the truth. He not only dared to sell her, but he would have sold the steamer long ago if he could have got within twenty-five per cent. of what she had cost the country. So much for "dare." It was well known that the Government had offered the "Governor

Blackall" for sale, for months past; even before she left Sydney she would have been sold if anyone could have been found to pay the price for her. He did not want to disparage the property of the colony by saying anything about the ship—that delightful "Governor Blackall," which had been built without Parliamentary authority, and had not been paid for yet, except out of unauthorised expenditure. But, as for not daring to sell her, he repeated he would have sold her long ago if anyone would have bought her. He was not going into this debate. All the debates of the past week had been most irregular—merely talking against time, and carrying out a course of proceeding which was never before heard of in any Parliament. Honorable members might talk as long as they liked, but, until he chose to speak, they would not make him speak. They might throw as much dirt as they pleased, but draw him out they would not.

Mr. FERRETT charged honorable members on the Opposition side of the House with having brought forward the motion of adjournment for the purpose of shelving the motion he had on the paper, and of endeavoring to bring him into ridicule; and they had stated that his motion was a Government measure. He never consulted the Government in any way about his motion. His attention had been called repeatedly to the "Governor Blackall," by persons travelling down the river, and by persons who had been on board of her, and who had had communication with those who were in charge of her; and it had been represented to him that the steamer was in anything but a satisfactory state, and that a great deal of money would have to be expended upon her, if she was not either put into thorough repair, or sold very shortly. Those were his reasons for putting the motion on the paper. He did not come to the House to do Government business. There was a Government that could do it to the satisfaction of the country. He was sorry that the honorable member who was answerable for the unwarrantable expenditure upon the "Governor Blackall" had thrown so much chaff over him; if the honorable member thought it would have any effect upon him, he little knew him. The honorable member should look back and see how his opinion, as a barrister, had been thrown over upon that Bill which had been alluded to; the measure had been sent home, but it did not receive the sanction of Her Majesty, and was not the law of the land. He (Mr. Ferrett) never made a mess like that, and he had foretold the fate of the Bill; and he had been right, and the honorable member wrong, in spite of his professional knowledge. At his years, he was not fond of work, and he did not come down to do the Government business; but, if he saw others wrong, and he was able to do right, he was ready at all times to assist them; and when he rendered

assistance, it was for the general good, not for personal or party purposes, as he saw some honorable members working on the Opposition side of the House.

Mr. ATKIN observed that the Opposition were gradually rousing Ministers up. They had first got up the Secretary for Public Lands, touching his manhood, and now they had just got up the Premier in something like his old form. The honorable gentleman at the head of the Government would speak when he liked!—but he would not speak now. What the Opposition complained of was, that Ministers would not speak, and that they had to do all the talking themselves; and that the honorable members, Mr. Cribb, Mr. Ferrett, and others of Ipswich and West Moreton, were delegated to do what belonged to the paid members of the Government. He objected that, owing to the peculiar position those six gentlemen occupied in the House, they obstructed private business by bringing forward Government measures on a day which was set apart for the general business. The Opposition were not afraid to discuss the sale of the "Governor Blackall," and it was absurd for any honorable member to say so, as they could go into it upon the motion for adjournment; but they simply objected that a measure of such importance should be brought forward by one of the non-official members of the Government. Why, on the Loan Estimate of last year, £16,000 was brought forward to pay for the steamer; but the Premier afterwards withdrew it, saying that if no good arrangement could be made, he would bring the subject of the disposal of the steamer forward again. This, then, became one of the most important questions that could come before the House. It was not at all a question of the Opposition against the Government. There were honorable members on the Opposition side, who wished to see that steamer sold; others had different ideas. The Government had no right to let a non-official member bring such a motion forward. Because, they could not carry out their business on their own days, they, by a side-wind, endeavored to get it done on a day set apart for other members. The resolutions of the honorable member for Leichhardt, were a specimen of their way of doing business. The Premier, in the few words he addressed to the House, had made a remarkable admission. He had accused the honorable member for Fortitude Valley of addressing the galleries, and, instituting a comparison with an actor, he said, when an actor addressed the gallery, he put him down as a ranter. It was the aristocratic tendencies of the honorable member's mind that led him to think that an actor was only an actor when he addressed those in the high-priced seats, and that when he addressed the poor "unwashed" in the gallery, he was a ranter. He (Mr. Atkin) did not envy the honorable member his definition. He supposed the honorable

members for Ipswich and West Moreton, who sat around the honorable gentleman on the Ministerial benches, were the boxes, and those on the other side of the House were the gallery. But the Premier did come out in true British lion style. The House had heard it, as a positive fact, that he was trying to make mail arrangements, in which the steamer would be made available; yet he said now that he would have sold her if he could, at the same time. It was not to be supposed for a moment, spite of his Bombastes manner, that he would do so. Last session, the honorable member had stated that he would consult the House before selling the steamer; that he would employ her advantageously if he could, but that the sale was a matter on which the House should be consulted.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: He begged to state distinctly that he had said he would take the expression of the House as a distinct sign that he was to sell her, if he could; and he struck the amount required to pay for her out of the Loan Estimate, in consequence.

MR. ATKIN: That was not the impression conveyed to his mind, at all, nor to that of other honorable members. The honorable member for West Moreton, Mr. Ferrett, had denied that he was acting for the Government on this occasion; and he had said that the Government were quite ready to do their work. Yet, the honorable member afterwards made the admission that he was always anxious to assist a fellow being in distress—always ready to assist those who could not help themselves. That was what the Opposition objected to. They objected to anybody else doing the work of the Government, even if they were in distress; and they objected to the Government delegating their work to the head of an obscure firm in a small town in the interior, instead of coming forward in a manly way and endeavoring to do their own business. The Government were dummies; they would not speak, and they could not work.

The Hon. R. PRING said he was of the same opinion as the honorable member for Fortitude Valley. The Premier never, in his wildest moments, thought of selling the "Governor Blackall"; and he would never do it without the sanction of the House. He would not do it, for the sake of his own character, if for no other reason. He had spoken of unauthorised expenditure, and said that the steamer was not paid for yet. He forgot that the House had sanctioned the contract with Mr. Mort, which was enough to assure the payment for the steamer. No doubt the honorable member had tried to sell her, and in that way to find out her value in the market, in order that he might be in a position to come down to the House and take a resolution upon the matter. But the honorable gentleman could never have had the assurance to go to the other colonies—he

could not have so trifled with them—and say that he had a steamer ready at a moment's notice to lay on the route from Normantown to Java, to carry despatches, when he was proposing telegraphic mail arrangements; and, at the same time, be seriously hawking her about for sale. He could never have dreamt of selling her. Many a man hawked his goods without the slightest intention of selling, but merely to get the approximate value of his stock. He (Mr. Pring) was sorry that the honorable gentleman had not given some information as to his views of the present political situation. Certainly, the honorable gentleman would speak out when he liked. He (Mr. Pring) thought every other honorable member did that. He did; he spoke out, and he held his tongue, as he liked. The Colonial Secretary was like any other man. As Mark Twain said, there was "no difference between him and any other man's frog." And what was all the raving about?—and the loud tone of voice, that might have been heard down in Queen street? He had thought the Colonial Secretary the most placid man, seeing him sit still in his place for the past fortnight, and hear all that was said. He knew of no man who could have stood that quietly who had not a thick skin—a rhinoceros hide—and, merely to keep the reins of Government in his hands without attending to the wants of the colony. Perhaps he could explain: the honorable gentleman was driven to his wits' end; he knew he was in bad company, and he did not know how to get out of it. "Evil communications corrupt good manners." That he found in his juvenile copy book; and he was perfectly certain that if the honorable member would refer to that, which he must have written when he was a good little boy, he could trace all his troubles to his having joined such a motley crew. The honorable gentleman would repent his ways, but he must not express his repentance in such a tone of voice as he had used. He had begun rather boisterously for a Minister; but he was mild and meek compared to the Secretary for Lands. He (Mr. Pring) never heard such a burst of froth and fury. The little constitutional Minister in a rage! Such unconstitutional, ignorant, blustering display from the half-lawyer, half-barrister, who was trying to raise himself on his little Bill to be the future Attorney-General, perhaps, was not in place. The honorable gentleman had condescended to lecture him (Mr. Pring); but what he was talking about was not to be understood. He had not been honest enough to quote him as he had spoken. He (Mr. Pring) had said that Her Majesty would not retain a Minister with a majority of one; but he had also added, if that Minister had all the people of England against him. Then, the honorable gentleman had mis-quoted the case of Pitt, that he had been in a minority for years; when the fact was, that that great statesman was in a minority for a few months only, and, after a dissolution, he

held office for seventeen years with a commanding majority. Compare Pitt's position to the position of the present Ministry! Pitt held office in the face of a minority, because the people of England were at his back. Was not that a justification? Were not the Opposition justified in opposing a Government who had a majority of only one, when the people of Queensland were at the back of that minority? The people's voice regulated Pitt's action, and the people's voice regulated that of the present Opposition. He (Mr. Pring) hoped that, before the Minister for Lands went in to be a barrister, he would get himself up better than he appeared to be in constitutional history. Before he got up again like a frog—

The SPEAKER: It would be better if the honorable member confined himself to the question under debate.

The Hon. R. PRING: He was only comparing his frog—or Mark Twain's frog—to the honorable member's frog. The honorable member had got very warm—

The SPEAKER intimated that the question was the adjournment of the House.

The Hon. R. PRING: If some honorable members on the Government side of the House would not be taught by common sense arguments, they must be taught in some other way. If anyone talked to a man of common sense, he used language that was easily and clearly understood; but if he talked to a man who had not common sense, it was necessary that he should use different language. If a man had a horse that would go without whipping, it was not necessary for him to use the whip, and he did not do it; but if the horse would not go without whipping, then it was necessary to use the whip. As to honorable members on the other side of the House, he had a contempt for the whole lot of them, so far as their policy, especially in respect to railway extension, was concerned—and he said so without the slightest hesitation. Then as to the members of the Ministry, they had not had the courtesy to answer the remarks that were made by honorable members on the Opposition side of the House, at the outset of this debate. Was it not enough to sting anyone to see a number of gentlemen holding on to the reins of Government without stating how the Government of the country was to be carried on? If harsh remarks had been made respecting them, they had themselves to blame for it; and would not everyone in the country say so? He knew it was not a pleasant thing to be dressed down as they had been dressed down; but it was altogether their own fault that such had been the case. When the disease was bad, the remedy must be severe. The country would not stand their conduct very much longer. Unless they changed their policy, and informed the House how the Government of the country was

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to be carried on, they would not find their seats so comfortable as at present they seemed to think they were; though he did not think that they felt them to be very comfortable even now. If the honorable the Colonial Secretary could shew that the position he assumed was a proper one, and that the policy of the Opposition, which was in favor of railway extension and progress, was not the proper one, and could bring forward arguments in proof of it; then the members of the Opposition would hear him, and give him their support. But in not stating any reasons for the course the Government pursued, or shewing that their policy was the proper one, he laid himself open to the strictures of honorable members on the Opposition side of the House. But the honorable gentleman knew that if he came forward and stated that railway extension was the proper policy for the country to pursue, he would lose the support of the honorable members for Ipswich and West Moreton. He knew that his Government was only kept together by the support of the six members for those two electorates. He knew that as soon as he advocated railway extension he would lose the support of those six members, and that he would have then to retire into the obscurity from which he came some time ago. The honorable member was in a dilemma. He knew that he could not come forward and attempt to prove to the House that railway extension was not the proper policy for the Government to adopt, because he knew that if he attempted to do that he would be met by stronger arguments on the other side of the question. He had always thought that the honorable the Colonial Secretary aspired to something like a political reputation, especially after the repeated statements he had made that he would not again take office—and he had heard him say so in the streets of Brisbane. Now, he could believe that the honorable gentleman said so sincerely; and also that he was sincere when he abandoned that intention, in believing that it was his duty, for the good of the country, that he should do so, and again take up the reins of Government, even though it might have been against his own will. Now, because he (Mr. Pring) believed that, so much more did he believe that the political reputation of the honorable gentleman was damaged by the unconstitutional course he had taken—for while he carried on the Government of the country with a majority of one, he should have stated to the House some reason for his doing so. But it might be that the honorable gentleman must hold on for a time. He might be in such a position with respect to his constituency, that he must endeavor to keep in office until certain pledges he might have made to his constituency were fulfilled. Now, if that should be the case, he (Mr. Pring) thought that a gentleman holding the high political office of

Colonial Secretary should consider if it would not be better to give up any party politics for the purpose of enabling legislation to be carried on that would be for the general benefit of the colony. He thought that it must be evident to everyone, that the present Ministry had been bolstered up in a most extraordinary way. The way in which elections were conducted in Ipswich had been referred to in the course of the debate. Well, he knew something about that. When he stood for Ipswich, several people entered the polling booth and personated men who had been dead for years; and when the father of the family, as the honorable member, Mr. Cribb, had been designated—when he heard of it, he held up his hands in horror. Well, on that occasion also, but previous to the polling, a man came to him (Mr. Pring), and asked him to take his house, and he at once told him that he would not. However, the house was taken up by the Opposition party, and a dray load of grog was taken into it; and matters were so managed there, that ballot papers were obtained and personation was carried on to a considerable extent. When the ballot papers were brought to the house, they were all filled-in for Thompson, Cribb, and Johnston. That was the way by which the present Government got their majority; and the honorable member for West Moreton, Mr. Thorn, boasted of it. He could mention other cases of a somewhat similar character. Now, looking at all those matters fairly in the face, he would ask the honorable the Premier, if he really thought that he possessed the confidence of the people, or of the thinking members of the House. When the honorable gentleman first became a member of the Ministry, he was looked upon by the members of the Opposition as an honest and a good and upright politician; but, since his last election, he had made some very serious political mistakes. He must say that he thought the honorable gentleman was carrying things with far too high a hand; and, he was the last man he could have expected to occupy the position he now did under the circumstances, by which he was alone enabled to do so.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS said, he desired at the outset of the few observations he should have to make, to congratulate the honorable member for North Brisbane, on having recovered his previously forcible style of address. The honorable member commenced his speech in a somewhat heavy and lugubrious style, but he gradually increased in warmth, and, before he came to a finish, proved that "Richard is himself again." He had again got into his characteristic manner of bullying the House; but, he could assure him, that he had taken hold of the wrong man, if he thought he could bully him. For some reason or another, the honorable member left him alone last night when he addressed the

House, but since then he had seemingly deemed it necessary to refer to him, and give a sketch of his character or appearance. But appearances went for little or nothing. There was an inner life to everybody; and he would like to know if the honorable member really believed in all that he said when he got up and addressed the House in the way he did. The honorable member had stated, that he (the Secretary for Public Lands) wished to get to the bar, and that he had brought forward a Bill for that purpose; but the honorable member knew well that there was an Act in existence by which he could become a member of the bar if he desired to do so—an Act by which another attorney got to the bar, and over-topped the honorable member himself. Now, he would admit that he had been tripped up in a matter of history, but it was only as to a matter of time, and not as to a matter of fact; and he had been led into the mistake he had made from reading one of Fox's speeches, instead of a historical work. The present Government had been twitted with proposing to sell the steamer "Governor Blackall," without the authority of the House. Well, that vessel was built by the previous Government without the authority of the House. Now, in addition to that, the late Government sold a punt without authority, and why should not the present Government be at equal liberty to sell another vessel without authority? The Opposition also accused the present Ministry of being a set of dumb dogs; but did not some honorable members now on the Opposition side of the House remember that at one time, when they sat on the Government side of the House, they were dumb dogs? He believed that if the country were polled to-morrow the Government would have two to one over the Opposition, because the country felt assured that the present Government had given them proper legislation, though they had not advocated a railway policy. The legislation which had been carried out by the present Government would, he maintained, contrast favorably with that of some previous Governments. Some honorable members did not seem to know much about the political affairs of the colony, otherwise they could not have said that the present Ministry were brought into power by the influence of Cribb and Foote. So far from that being the case, the fact was that he himself headed Mr. Cribb at the election for Ipswich. Now, he must compliment the honorable member for North Brisbane, Mr. Pring, in the way he last got into the House. It was by an extraordinary decision of a committee; and he would also compliment him on the extraordinary way in which he interpreted a point of law as to contracts—

Mr. LILLEY rose to a point of order. He considered it was not right for any member of the House, and especially for a member of

the Ministry, to reflect upon the decision of a committee of the House.

The SPEAKER said that no honorable member had a right to reflect on the decision of a committee of the House.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS said he only desired to add that he had learned much from the honorable member. He might still improve by what he might further learn from him, and by following his example might yet be able to get to the bar.

Mr. MILES said it was quite clear to him that the members of the Government felt very sore with the thrashing they had got during the last two or three nights. The honorable the Colonial Secretary had said that all the speeches which had been delivered from the Opposition side of the House were only chaff; but he was sure that it was chaff of a kind that the honorable member would be glad to get rid of. The honorable gentleman had also said that the Government could sell the steamer "Governor Blackall" without the authority of the Legislature; but he (Mr. Miles) very much doubted if he could do so. As to the motion before the House, he could not help regarding it as somewhat of a Government motion—

The COLONIAL SECRETARY rose to order. It had been ruled by the Speaker over and over again, that when an honorable member denied the accuracy of a statement attributed to him, that denial was to be considered as true. Now, the honorable member for West Moreton, Mr. Ferrett, had twice denied that this motion was brought forward by him as the agent of the Government; and yet the honorable member for the Maranoa continued to repeat that it was.

Mr. MILES denied that he had said that the honorable member for West Moreton had, as the agent of the Government, brought forward this motion. However, he would let that pass. He really thought that the Government should re-consider their policy, and he did not see that they would in any way stultify themselves by doing so. The third paragraph in the Opening Speech of the session was as follows:—

"One of the most important questions which will require your attention during the ensuing Session, will be that of Additional Representation, and a more equitable distribution of the Electorates; but, before introducing a Bill for carrying out these objects, it is essential that you should be in possession of the latest and most reliable information as to the number and distribution of the population of the colony. For this purpose, a Bill to provide for taking a Census will be amongst the first of those to be submitted to you."

Now, a Bill had been brought which professed to provide for eight additional members to the Legislative Assembly; and, not only that, but there was also a Re-distribution Bill, which dealt with thirty-two schedules, and affected the whole of the electorates of

the colony. Those were very important measures, and he did not see how they could be carried through this session, if honorable members on the Opposition side of the House—from want of information as to the policy the Government intended to pursue as to railway extension and other public works—felt compelled to maintain the stand they had considered it to be their duty to take up on the present occasion. He did not think that the Government would do themselves any harm by taking the advice of the members who sat on the Opposition side of the House, and adopt a policy that would be for the benefit of the whole colony. It was utterly impossible that, under the present circumstances, either the members of the Opposition, or the people of the colony, could have any confidence in the present Government; and he must say that he did not think the honorable the Premier had bettered his position by sitting there, night after night, and allowing the members of the Opposition to attack the Government in the way they had done, without saying a word in reply.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS said he thought it seemed to be the desire of honorable members on the Opposition side of the House that the Government should so far humiliate themselves as to change their policy; but he hoped the Government would not do anything of the kind. Honorable members on the Opposition side of the House had accused the Government of a want of manliness; but the honorable members who talked in that way should shew that they had the manliness to bring forward a vote of want of confidence in the present Government, if they did not believe in them, rather than to continue to obstruct the business of the country in the way they were doing. Any four of the most ignorant men in the colony, if they were members of the House, could offer as much obstruction to the carrying on of the public business as the minority of fifteen who now sat on the Opposition side of the House. The honorable member for Fortitude Valley had referred to the case of the honorable the Speaker when he was at the head of the Government having resigned when he had a majority of two; but that was at a time when there was treachery in the camp. The honorable member for Fortitude Valley was at that time one of the followers of the honorable member who now occupied the office of Speaker of this House; and everyone knew that wherever the honorable member for Fortitude Valley was there was treachery. Then, as to the case of the honorable member for Fortitude Valley, he remembered the time when he was at the head of the Government, and went out of office without giving a single word of explanation to the House as to the course of policy his Government intended to pursue, and there was not one of

his party rose to say a word in explanation. He knew something of the doings of honorable members on the other side of the House; and this much he could say, that while there was argument on the Government side of the House there was only noise on the Opposition side. The Government and its supporters did not require a phalanx to chorus and cheer them on, but it was necessary on the Opposition side of the House that honorable members should have a phalanx to chorus and cheer them on. The motion before the House had been brought forward he believed, and that most adroitly, by the manœuvring of the honorable member for Fortitude Valley; and that for the purpose of forestalling the debate that would take place on the next notice of motion on the business paper, and which had reference to the sale of the steamer "Governor Blackall." If such had not been the intention of the honorable member, he would not have made the long speech he did, on the motion before the House. It had been said that the steamer should be employed in the importation of black laborers. Well, he believed that that was the only use she could properly be put to. Now, as the honorable member so harrassed the members of his Ministry in respect to the building of this steamer, and inflicted such a scourge upon them as he did, he ought to adopt a somewhat more contrite style of speech. It would, he thought, be well for the honorable member to read the miserable correspondence that took place between him and the members of his Ministry, on the subject of the building of this steamer. He maintained that it was the purchase of this steamer, by the honorable member for Fortitude Valley, when he held the office of Premier, and the other members of his Ministry consenting to it, that led to the Lilley Administration being hurled from power. The honorable member's own colleagues went so far as to deny that they consented to the purchase of this steamer. While he admired the adroitness of the honorable member for Fortitude Valley in the way he had diverted the debate that would have taken place with respect to the "Governor Blackall," he could assure him that the affairs of the country were now getting into a very serious position—but the Government were prepared to meet the difficulty. The programme which was put forward by the Government, at the opening of the session, was one which they believed the country would accept; and seeing that the Government had not departed from that programme, and that it had been accepted by the people from one end of the colony to the other, they had a right to believe that the policy they enunciated was in every way satisfactory. But the honorable member for South Brisbane had urged the inhabitants of Brisbane on to the belief that the most important thing for

the good of the colony was the extension of the railway from Ipswich to Brisbane. Only for that miserable paper, the *Brisbane Courier*, over which the honorable member for South Brisbane had full control—

AN HONORABLE MEMBER: No, no!

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: Only for that, the present difficulty in which they were placed would not have occurred. The honorable member for South Brisbane took advantage of his position in connection with that paper to stir up the turbulent feelings of the people of Brisbane with respect to this question of railway extension; and but for his having done so, the whole matter might now have been better attended to. He laid the blame of the whole of this difficulty upon that honorable member. He considered that, in this matter, the honorable member was the curse of the colony at the present time. Three times a-week there had been articles or letters in the *Courier*, lately, on this subject; and some of them he could trace to the honorable member for South Brisbane himself, and others to the honorable member for Fortitude Valley. The honorable member for East Moreton, Mr. Atkin, had stated that the Government had no power, without the consent of the House, to sell the steamer "Governor Blackall." Now, he maintained that they could; for, if the previous Government could sell a punt or other vessel—either steamer or dredge—of equal value to the "Governor Blackall," without the consent of the House, the present Government could surely sell the "Governor Blackall" without the consent of the House. Where, he would ask, would there be any wrong doing in selling that useless vessel that now lay floating in the River Brisbane? He must emphatically protest against the actions of the Government being misconstrued as they had been; for the Government had, from first to last, desired to do what they considered would be best for the good of the people; and yet they were taunted by the members of the Opposition as being actuated by a desire to hinder the progress of the colony; but those honorable members, judging by the arguments they had put forward, seemed to think that progress meant the lavish expenditure of the public money of the colony.

MR. GROOM said he rose in order to put himself right with the House. The honorable the Minister for Lands had made use of very insulting observations towards him, which he would treat with the contempt they deserved; but with reference to what the honorable member had termed treachery, he had a few words to say. The honorable the Speaker, as well as the honorable member, knew that there was no treachery in the camp on the occasion referred to by the honorable member, but that when the Address in Reply

to the Governor's Speech was carried, sixteen voted for it and fourteen against it. The Honorable the Speaker, then the Premier, desired his supporters to meet him at the Colonial Secretary's office, and so far from there being any treachery, at the meeting which took place there, two of the number said that they could support the land policy of the Government. The honorable the Speaker then said that as he only had a majority of two, and two of his supporters differed from him on such an important question, it would be better to resign, and let the business of the country go on. Therefore when the honorable member said there was treachery, he did so in order to damage the character of the honorable member for Fortitude Valley. That honorable member had never descended to such conduct, nor had he ever gone into certain places for the purpose of disparaging the character of honorable members, nor had he ever engaged special trains to go to Warwick, to meet a woman, and to listen to a report against the character of an honorable member, and then repeat it amongst his private friends.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: That is utterly untrue.

Mr. LILLEY: We all know it to be true.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: I say it is false.

Mr. GROOM said the honorable member was not perfectly right in saying it was false. The honorable member never went to the Darling Downs but to run down the characters of some honorable members on this side of the House. It is not for the honorable member to say it is correct. We all know the honorable member, like Milton's Abdiel, is "Faithful 'mongst the faithless, faithful only he."

The SPEAKER: The honorable member is out of order. The honorable the Minister for Works has denied the truth of the statement.

Mr. GROOM: He was bound to accept it. He had not risen to enter into a discussion about the "Governor Blackall"; but he could not hear such a statement as that made by the Minister for Works—that where the honorable member for Fortitude Valley was, there was treachery—without speaking; for what that honorable member had stated of the action taken by Mr. Speaker and his colleagues—of whom the honorable member for Fortitude Valley was one—in the Government, when they went out of office, was not in accordance with facts, as everyone knew.

Mr. ATKIN, in answer to the challenge he had received from a Minister, wished to shew that the Government could not dispose of the steamer.

The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC LANDS, as a point of order, said he thought that the Speaker should be left out of the discussion, and

should only be referred to as the Minister of the day.

Mr. KING rose to reply.

HONORABLE MEMBERS: Spoke, spoke.

Mr. KING cited "May's Parliamentary Practice," page 308, under which he had the right of reply.

The SPEAKER said the honorable member had not the right of reply in any case. He had referred to the authority cited.

Mr. FYFE, in order to give the honorable member an opportunity of addressing the House again, moved the addition to the motion for adjournment of the words, "until to-morrow morning."

The SPEAKER said he did not think such an amendment could be received; as, under the Sessional Order, the House would meet next day—if the motion passed, the House would stand adjourned until to-morrow morning.

Mr. FYFE cited "May," pp. 302-3, in support of his position.

After deliberation, and acting upon the suggestion of the Speaker,

Mr. FYFE moved, by way of amendment, that the words "till Tuesday next" be added to the motion.

Question—That the words proposed to be added be so added.

Mr. ATKIN said he would take this opportunity of replying to the request of the Secretary for Public Works on the question of the Government selling the "Governor Blackall." The honorable gentleman had tried to justify the action of the Government, if they had sold her, by referring to the sale of the dredge by the preceding Government; and he had also stated that if the steamer could be bought by the Government, she could be sold. The question was, whether or not it was an illegal act to buy the steamer; but, putting that aside, there was an old rule that, the money being voted for a particular object, the Executive for the time being could apply it to that object in any way they liked. Therefore, as a matter of constitutional practice, the late Government were justified in selling one dredge to carry on, with the proceeds of that sale, the dredging operations in the river for which there had been a specific appropriation by Parliament, out of which the dredge had been originally purchased. There was no analogy between that case and the selling of the steamer, for which no sanction or authority existed. The rule on the subject was very strict, as would be found from "Todd":—

"The increasing strictness of the House of Commons, in regard to the appropriation of public moneys to the sole uses for which they have been voted by Parliament, is remarkably exemplified in two cases which engaged the attention of the Committee on Public Accounts, in 1864:—

"1. A negotiation between the War Office and the Office of Woods and Forests, for the exchange

of certain public lands. This negotiation finally resulted, not in the mere exchange of land for land—which is not an uncommon occurrence, and could always be effected between public departments, with the sanction of the Treasury—but in the sale of lands at Brighton, no longer wanted for military purposes, to private parties; and the purchase with the proceeds thereof of land in Woolmer Forest from the Office of Woods and Forests. 'This was, technically and substantially, not an exchange of land, but a sale of land by the War Office, and a subsequent purchase of lands from the Woods and Forests.' The committee agree in opinion with the Board of Audit, through whose report the transaction was brought under the notice of Parliament, 'that the produce of this sale of land at Brighton ought to have been paid into the Exchequer as an extra receipt, and that, if it was requisite to make a purchase of land in Woolmer Forest, the proposal to do so should have been submitted in the regular way to the House of Commons.' "

There was another case :—

"Adverting to this transaction in the following year, the committee were informed by an officer of the Government, that the objection taken by the committee was considered as 'perfectly valid, and it will be our future law.' The proceeding complained of 'will never be repeated.' (*Ibid.* 1865, Evid. 1476.) Accordingly, in 1866, when it was desired to appropriate 71 tons of old gun-metal (valued at £4,970), the property of the War Department, towards the construction of the national memorial to the Prince Consort, an estimate for this expenditure was submitted to the House, and the amount voted in Committee of Supply."

That shewed that the Government property could not be sold by Government without the consent of Parliament, unless that property had been acquired with money appropriated for a special purpose; then the proceeds of the sale could be applied to that purpose, as in the case of the dredge. He (Mr. Atkin) would refer to the statement made by the honorable member at the head of the Government, when the Premier said it was intended by the Government, all along, to sell the steamer. What did he find in the seventh paragraph of the Speech with which the present session had been opened?—

"7. The Government of New South Wales having refused to contract for a mail service to England, *via* San Francisco, it has not been in the power of my Government to enter into any agreement for such services. The money authorised by resolution of Parliament to be available for that purpose, has not, therefore, been required. It now becomes a question for your consideration, whether it would be desirable for Queensland alone to undertake a postal service, *via* Torres' Straits, even at a probable money loss for the first year or two."

When the honorable gentleman, or the Postmaster-General penned that paragraph, would he venture to deny that he had the intention of employing the steamer "Governor Blackall"? Of course, he had such an intention; and

every honorable member who had read that paragraph, and every individual in the community, had that impression. The statement of the honorable member at the head of the Government, and that of the Minister for Works, that the Government always intended to sell the steamer, and not to employ her, fell to the ground.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said the honorable member at the head of the Government never stated that it was always his intention to sell the steamer; but when he had found that he could not sell her, propositions were made to the other Colonial Governments, always subject to the sanction of the House, to employ her. There was no analogy between what the honorable member for East Moreton, Mr. Atkin, had brought forward, and the selling of the "Governor Blackall." According to his own shewing, the late Government were justified in selling the dredge, and appropriating the money to dredging operations. In that proposition they agreed. How was the "Governor Blackall" purchased? She was ordered and contracted for without any legislation whatever; on the simple authority of the Executive. How was she paid for?

Mr. LILLEY: That is all right.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Out of what vote was it?

Mr. LILLEY: Have you paid for her?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: He was addressing the House. How, he wanted to know, was she paid for? The amount of the purchase money was put into the Loan Estimate, and from the tenor of the discussion which ensued on the proposition to vote the amount, the opinion of the House was clearly in favor of having the vessel sold. He withdrew it from the Loan Estimate, and put the payment of the vessel down to unauthorised expenditure. That being so, the Government would be perfectly justified in selling her, and repaying the amount they received back to the fund from which the purchase money had been taken. That was the analogy of the honorable member's authority! The honorable member could not presume to say that the War Office had not the power to sell old-gun metal, and to appropriate the proceeds under the proper vote. But the War Office had no right to appropriate old-gun metal for a memorial. He the (Colonial Secretary) supposed that nearly every day in the year old-gun metal was sold, and the proceeds put back to the proper fund. The present Government, and any Government, had a perfect right to sell the steamer "Governor Blackall," and to put the money back to the fund from which her purchase money had been taken.

Mr. LILLEY observed that a lame apology was better than none. At all events, the Colonial Secretary was a worse business man than he (Mr. Lilley) had ever taken him to be, if the honorable gentleman's intentions were as they had been described. Because

the honorable gentleman had found himself unable to dispose of the "Governor Blackall," and being unwilling to keep her at a loss, he was driven into the kind of action described in the seventh paragraph of the Opening Speech of this session—that he would incur further loss by sending the vessel to Torres Straits, instead of keeping her at hand. He was driven, by sheer inability to sell the steamer, to offer to enter into a heavy contract for a mail service. There was no doubt, now, that a candid explanation had been given by the honorable member for West Moreton, that she was to be put into the Torres Straits mail service. It was trifling with the country to say that it was the inability of the Government to sell the steamer that had driven them into that position. The Secretary for Public Works had treated the House to one of his usual speeches. He (Mr. Lilley) did feel, and the country did feel, that a Minister in his place was bound to speak the truth; and if there was a Minister in the House who shewed an incapacity for that, he ought to be dismissed by a vote of the House. No man knew better than that Minister, when he said, to-night, that the member for Fortitude Valley was treacherous in the Ministry of the honorable the Speaker, that what he said was untrue; yet he had said it.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: He never said so; and he never intended it. He had said there was treachery in the camp when the Speaker was Premier, and that wherever the honorable member for Fortitude Valley was, there treachery would be. He knew what he had said, and what he meant; because he knew that, wherever the honorable member for Fortitude Valley had been, he had had treacherous followers. At any rate, he thought he might be allowed to say what he did mean; and he pledged his word that that was what he meant—not that the honorable member himself was a traitor. If the honorable member would not take his word for it, he (the Secretary for Works) pitied him.

MR. LILLEY: He did not want the pity of that honorable member. He pitied him, from his soul. In the country and in the House the honorable member had a character which he did not envy—a character not for speaking the truth. It was impossible for him to attempt an explanation. He (Mr. Lilley) might accept the explanation given now as the true one. He took no exception to the words of the honorable member when he uttered them. He knew he should have the privilege of reply. If he were disposed to deal with the honorable member, to-night, as he richly deserved, in reply to what had been stated by him, he should give him a character which would pass for some time in this colony, and which would attach to his name for ever. If that honorable member did not know it, there

was not in that correspondence which had been alluded to a word that was not fit to meet the eye of a child; but believing that the honorable member did not know it, he (Mr. Lilley) repelled with scorn the slanders which had been industriously circulated by him and his agents. When he was in Sydney, and when he was unknowingly subject to the slanders circulated by him and others—as the honorable member knew well, himself—he was their victim; and, to-night, with unblushing front, that Minister repeated those slanders, and attempted to justify himself. What did that honorable member mean? It was shameless, a proceeding of that kind. If it were not in the interests of public morality, he (Mr. Lilley) would treat that speech, to-night, as he had treated that of the Colonial Treasurer, when that honorable member hurled at him his unmerited charges—when, upon a vote of want of confidence, he left the Government with silent contempt. He left, surrounded as he was by such men as the present Treasurer; confronted by such men as the Minister for Works—capable of any treachery, of any falsehood, to accomplish the ends at which they aimed. Now, let it go forth that the Minister for Works had been judged. In the press of the colony he had been described in character. In the courts he had tested his reputation. What was the verdict? What was the accusation against him that he tried to meet? That he was "the greatest liar in Queensland"! He had been so branded; and the jury found that he was not the "greatest liar," and gave him twenty pounds damages for the character of truth which he ought to have and enjoy as a Minister of the Crown and as a man. He (Mr. Lilley) advised the honorable member to be less industrious in future in the circulation of slanders against his character, or he might have to answer as a defendant in a court which once acquitted him. There was an end to a man's patience; there was a limit to forbearance. He might not always treat the honorable member's proceedings with contempt. He had a reputation to uphold in the colony. At all events, he had never been branded as a liar. No man had attached to his name a charge of falsehood. No man had attached to his name a charge of dishonesty. No man suspected him, in a public department, of trying to mismanage a great public work, so that it might be made to appear profitless or valueless to the colony. No man suspected him as that honorable member was suspected. No man ever dared to suspect him or to attach to his name the word falsehood, or the word dishonest, or the word dishonest. Could the Minister for Works say as much for himself? Was it to him, or to any man sitting beside him, that he (Mr. Lilley) was to observe a deferential tone? He held the tone of truth, and he

would hold the tone that he thought best befitted the public duty he had to discharge; and, he advised that honorable member, when he went home, to sit, to reflect, to resolve to change his course—to hold sacred the private character of other citizens, to respect and hold sacred those dear to every man. The honorable member filled a public position in the colony. He (Mr. Lilley) had done so, and, he hoped, with honor and ability which the Minister for Works would never be able to display. It was the interest of the people, it was their duty, and it ought to be their pleasure, to uphold the character of their leading men; it ought to be the duty of a public man to endeavor to deserve the respect of his fellow citizens. Unfortunately, in small communities, a man was not always able to enjoy the consideration which he ought to have at the hands of his fellow-citizens and to have his name and fame preserved from slander. There were men who committed the sin of listening, as well as men who committed the sin of speaking against private reputation. If the Minister for Works had not had listeners, or willing agents, his slanders could not have been bruited abroad. There were others who had suffered besides the honorable member for Fortitude Valley. The Minister for Works, with others, had purchased the public press of the colony; he had fastened his filthy hands upon that institution of a free community, and had stifled free discussion—because he, and others like him, had the money to purchase the silence of the organs of public opinion, and subject the press to shame and dishonor.

Mr. STEPHENS: Hear, hear.

Mr. LILLEY: Was it to such a man as that that he was to be driven to hold a deferential tone? Why every dog in the community might bark at such a fellow. He wrote no articles in the newspapers. What he had to say against a man he spoke publicly. He put nothing in the papers, but once, and that not to the dishonor of any man, since, fifteen years ago, he resigned his position as editor of the *Courier*. What he had ever written since, he attached his name to; and how seldom that appeared in print every man in the community knew. But for the past two years—he asked the Minister for Works himself—had any man in the colony been so vilely abused and so foully attacked as he? He was ashamed, in conclusion, that the House should so dishonor themselves as to have amongst them such a member as the Minister for Works.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY asked the House to allow him to say a few words at this juncture; as he could state, of his own knowledge, that which, if he had stated it before, would have prevented the attack upon his honorable colleague. When very unpleasant reports were going about, at the time of the purchase

of the steamer, his honorable friend, the Minister for Works, told him that from the letters he had received from Sydney, he believed there was not a word of truth in those reports—that the honorable member for Fortitude Valley was “more sinned against than sinning.” That he could vouch for, and he believed there were other honorable members who could vouch for the same. It was a positive fact that the Minister for Works had told him that.

Mr. STEPHENS said he believed every word the Colonial Secretary had stated. But, at the same time that his honorable colleague, the member for Fortitude Valley, was in Sydney, and immediately after his return, the Minister for Works told him (Mr. Stephens) a contrary story—that all the reports they had heard in Brisbane were nothing like equal to the facts of the honorable member's conduct there. Out of his own mouth the Minister for Works was condemned!

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: That honorable member himself had told him, what he did not believe, that his colleague, the honorable member for Fortitude Valley, was drunk in Sydney. He defied the honorable member for South Brisbane to contradict it; and that he had further stated that his honorable colleague's telegrams shewed the state he was in.

The SPEAKER interposed.

Mr. STEPHENS: I deny it *in toto*.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: It appeared that the honorable member for Fortitude Valley, finding that he could not reduce the Ministry by an attack on the fortress in its entirety, was determined to make up for his failure by attacking individual Ministers. He was sorry to see the honorable member so angry with him as to apply to him such harsh epithets, and to endeavor to give him such a character as he had described. All that he could say, was, that his conscience acquitted him. He had as much regard for honor as the honorable member for Fortitude Valley. He had succeeded in life entirely through his adherence to honor and honorable actions. He never did a single act that he was ashamed of; he never did a dishonorable act in all his life; but—he would tell the House what he had done—when he was accused, when accusations were brought against his character, for party and political purposes, he had refused to notice them. He had treated them with silence for years and years, even when his best friends had come to him and asked him why he did not take notice of such and such slanders. He had said, “No; I know that those who know me best, know they are untrue; my conscience acquits me; I will not give my enemies the satisfaction of seeing I am tortured by them.” The honorable member for Fortitude Valley had said

that those who knew him (the Secretary for Works) knew that they could not believe him. Those were not his words; but that was what was meant. Those who knew him (the Secretary for Works) well, knew he was to be believed, and that his word, in business matters or other matters, was better, invariably, than the oaths of his accusers. His word was his bond. There was nothing he valued so much in this life, as that he should adhere to the truth, and never depart from it. The honorable member had done him great injustice, and he was sorry for him. The last person he met got his ear. He knew that when others were slandering him throughout this city he took the honorable member's part; yet he was regarded by the honorable member as his greatest enemy, and he was the cause of his present opposition. The honorable member, for a long while past, had a sort of mania over him, and he ran a-muck against some individual for a week or a fortnight, and then was friendly, while he singled out somebody else for attack. It was only a fortnight ago that he was going to annihilate the honorable member for Brisbane, Mr. Pring—who now sat beside him—regarding him as the greatest monster in the country. It was not long before that, he had singled out the honorable member for South Brisbane. He (the Secretary for Works) would not shock the country by repeating the opinion of the honorable member for Fortitude Valley, of that honorable member. Previously, the honorable member for Fortitude Valley had held a similar opinion about the honorable member for East Moreton, Mr. Atkin. If he (the Secretary for Works) were to repeat but a part of all that had been said by the honorable member for Fortitude Valley about other honorable members—supposing it could be true, which, of course, it was not—so severe was it, that they would stand in a far worse position than he stood in, according to the honorable member's description of him. He could give the honorable member's opinion, not expressed confidentially, but stated at the corners of the streets, of almost every member who once supported him; and there was no more flowing epithet that the honorable member applied to this or that man than that So-and-so was "the greatest liar in the colony."

MR. LILLEY: It was not true.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: He pledged his word that it was true.

MR. LILLEY: No; he was bound to say it was not true—not a word of it.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: He was bound to take the honorable member's word of denial, by the rules of the House. But he believed it was a perfect hallucination that possessed the honorable member: he seemed to have a monomania against an individual for a few days, and, during that time, he never left him alone. Then it passed off,

as, in a few days, his present hallucination would pass off; and he would attack somebody else—the honorable member for Maranoa or Warwick. During the fit, nothing he could say of an honorable member was too bad. Only a short time ago, he had said that if the honorable member for Brisbane, Mr. Pring, dared to put up again, he would go and oppose him.

MR. LILLEY: No; it was not true.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: All he could say was, that there were a few honorable members who thought it was.

MR. LILLEY: He would not give up his seat for Fortitude Valley for any constituency in the colony, while he could hold a seat in the House.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: It was not said in the House; it was in another public place; and he had heard it. Such was the state that seemed to be coming over the honorable member. He could assure the honorable member that for the last year or two he had pitied—although his pity was despised—for he had got into such a position now, that neither friend nor foe trusted him, nor would they trust him. He had been quite prepared for the charges which had been made, this evening; he saw that the attack was approaching; and it had not burst one moment sooner than he had expected. But he did protest against the honorable member, that, when he was so hard up as now for motions to get into office, he should resort to such measures as he had adopted during the past week; by every scheme, every hindrance, every petty difficulty that he could place in the way of the Government doing the business of the country, he had assailed the position of the Ministry. But the most extraordinary means was his trying to prove that he (the Secretary for Works) was an individual of such a character as to be unworthy to have a seat in the House or official position in the Government; and he had tried to fix a calumny upon him the most injurious, next to assailing a man's honor, that he, as Minister for Works, was endeavoring to work the railway office so as to prove that the railways were a failure in the colony.

HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: Honorable members on the Opposition side cheered that. Well, he despised them. It was an indication of the conduct they would pursue, if they were in office. No man ever more honestly endeavoured to work the railway than he did. He had put aside his own feelings, as a party man; and he had done all he could do for the good Government and prosperity of the country, ever since he went into office. He had lost, he might say, thousands of pounds by devoting himself to the public service; and his sole object was to do the best he could for the country, and to acquit himself with honor. He cared not for

the accusations of the honorable member for Fortitude Valley.

MR. GROOM and other HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: What did he care for the repulsive cheers of the honorable member for Drayton and Toowoomba?

MR. GROOM: Hear, hear.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: He sought for the approbation of men who had characters.

MR. GROOM: Go on.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: Not of men who had lost them.

MR. GROOM: Go on.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: And he had yet to learn that the honorable member for Drayton and Toowoomba had any character.

MR. GROOM: Hear, hear. Go a little further.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: The honorable member for South Brisbane had reminded him that some men were better off then they looked. He fancied that he was now about to see if he could not prosper a little more in the world by abandoning his former high principles. But he (the Secretary for Works) would not follow him. The principles that he was brought up in had attended him through his career in life, and he hoped that he would carry them to the grave; and his wish was, that, when he was no more, those whom he valued most and whom he should leave behind would cherish as an imperishable remembrance the character for honor of their parent.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY rose to call the Speaker's attention to disorder in the gallery. If order was not observed, he should ask that the House be cleared of strangers.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS continued: He had something at stake in this country, as well as the honorable member for Fortitude Valley. He had a family that claimed his attention. Neither that family nor himself could afford to have its chief member's name touched or sullied by such insinuations, such scandals, such slanders, such lies, such libels, as had been uttered by that honorable member. Neither lies nor drink should degrade his family; nor robbery!—he (the Secretary for Works) would not rob anybody, nor would he rob the State. He would do his duty to his country, to himself, to his fellow-creatures, as long as he lived; and, when he failed in that duty, he hoped he should fail to live; or, at any rate, when he should have committed so many flagrant acts, such offences against society, as many honorable members who had been attacking him shewed by their cheers and their words that they had committed, or could commit, he hoped he should fail to live; for the Legisla-

tive Assembly would not be a place for either him or his children.

MR. LILLEY was understood to say that so far from seeking the honorable member, he refused to have anything to do with him, when the honorable member sought him. There was another lie.

MR. SCOTT rose to order, and called attention to the language of the honorable member for Fortitude Valley, addressed to the Minister for Works.

THE SPEAKER said that there had been a great deal on both sides of the House which was exceedingly unpleasant and improper for him to hear. If it had been noticed at the commencement of the debate, he should certainly have endeavored to have stopped it.

DR. O'DOHERTY said he rose in the hope that he could apply a little salve. Every honorable member would agree with him that language had been used on both sides of the House that was scarcely right. He felt bound to say that, as far as his experience of the honorable member for Maryborough went, in the House and elsewhere, he did not think that any language which would stigmatise him as either a wilful or deliberate liar, or a dishonorable man, ought to be applied to him. Nor, on the other hand, did he think that any language such as the honorable member had over and over again applied to other honorable members, ought ever to be used in the House or elsewhere. It was not more than a week or ten days ago, that that honorable gentleman, after protesting to the Speaker and claiming his protection from what he (Dr. O'Doherty) and other honorable members considered in no way a personal attack by him upon the honorable gentleman, got up and made a personal attack upon him in the most virulent manner, and charged him with being the originator, on the late Railway Commission, of all sorts of abominable orgies. No man knew better than the honorable gentleman that there was not a scintilla of truth, not a shadow of foundation for such a charge. He (Dr. O'Doherty) had treated it with contempt, because he really believed that such attacks were utterly unjustifiable amongst honorable members. He had had no connection with the honorable member beyond their meeting in the committee room at the sittings of the Commission, except upon one occasion when the honorable gentleman did him the honor to take him in a special train to Warwick, where he stayed for twenty-four hours, and then he came back with the Minister for Works in the same train. He defied the honorable gentleman to point out anything on that trip which justified, in the slightest degree, the terms that had been applied to him. But it was not the first time the honorable gentleman had sought in the House to stab him in a disagreeably personal manner. He had sought to throw opprobrium on him

because of an old political action of his (Dr. O'Doherty's) in his native country.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: He never for one moment alluded to such a subject. The honorable member was mistaken.

The SPEAKER expressed a hope that the House would support him in upholding the rules of debate. Because the honorable member for Fortitude Valley, and the Minister for Works had gone somewhat beyond them, for personal explanation, it was not desirable that such a course should be pursued. Really that sort of thing must not go on.

Mr. CRIBB, as a point of order, stated that the honorable member for Brisbane was referring to a previous debate this session.

Dr. O'DOHERTY was only referring to what he conceived to be the main cause of all the disagreeable statements which had been made in the House that evening. He believed, honestly, that the honorable the Minister for Works, no more than his honorable friend the member for Fortitude Valley, made statements with the grossly insulting meaning in which the House must accept them; but he would maintain that no honorable member should be more careful to place a curb on his tongue than the honorable the Minister for Works. He had mentioned two words used to himself by that honorable member as being intended to apply to his old character of an Irish politician. The honorable member intended them as a stab, and he (Dr. O'Doherty) only referred to the matter now for the purpose of entreating him not only as a private member of the community but as a Minister, not to stab in that way. As he had before observed, he did not believe that that honorable member was open to the charge of being a dishonorable man, or in any other way unworthy of sitting among the best men in that House, nor that when he made the statements he had made, he meant them to be insulting. The main object he had in rising, was in reference to the old question of the "Governor Blackall" steamer, and the remarks made in connection therewith. It had been the custom of the honorable the Minister for Works to charge the honorable member for Fortitude Valley, at the time he was Premier, with having had a vote of censure passed upon him by his followers in consequence of his conduct in ordering that steamer, and he had stated that the honorable member was driven from power by the treachery of his followers. Now he (Dr. O'Doherty) was one of the followers of the honorable member at that time, and he acted with the greatest consistency as one of those followers. He differed from him in that House, however, as also did other members of that party, as regarded his policy, and he stated the reasons why he differed from him. But it was well known that since the honorable members opposite had taken their seats,

that they could not have held their places for one day, were it not for the sanction of the honorable member for Fortitude Valley; and it was only now that the honorable member had seen the policy of those gentlemen, that he had come to those honorable members who had always looked to him as their leader. It was only now that those followers were placed in their proper position in the country, and the honorable the Minister for Works had gained nothing by attempting to create discord between them and their legitimate leader. He would say that the course pursued by the honorable member for Fortitude Valley had done great good—it had consolidated a party; it had weeded out the disaffected; and had made a solid phalanx. He would only say, in conclusion, that, on the occasion when they differed from that honorable member, and when they thought it necessary to go before their constituents, he (Dr. O'Doherty) explained that he differed from the honorable member because, instead of taking his position as the head of the people of the country, he waited until an influence was exercised upon him by the honorable members now on the Treasury benches. That was the strongest reason urged against him. A great deal had been said of their differing from him because he was a little jolly when he went down to Sydney; but he would like to know who on the Treasury benches at the present time was not occasionally a little jolly. He believed his honorable friend would not deny that he was jolly;—it was his nature to be warmhearted and jolly, and he would pardon him for saying that he was a little more so than it was prudent for him to be as Premier. But he accepted a lesson from it, and from that moment; and where now was there a man to say a word about, or to point at, his honorable friend? It was now time that he held the highest position a man could hold, as from that hour he had thrown over any little weakness he might have had—had braced himself up, and from that time he had addressed himself to the cause of the people. Notwithstanding all the efforts made to separate him from his legitimate followers, he would have the loyal confidence of those who considered themselves quite as worthy of any position as any others in the colony.

The Hon. R. PRING wished to say one word in regard to himself, in order that his conduct, at any future time, should not be misunderstood—namely, that nothing any honorable member on the Treasury benches may say would ever draw him from his allegiance to his honorable friend, the member for Fortitude Valley. Presuming that he had chosen in his discretion to give a vote, a few evenings previously, which did not please his honorable friend, and had drawn forth some rather severe

remarks from him, he (Mr. Pring) took no notice of them, as it would be strange indeed were two men to agree upon every point. Besides that, they were accustomed day after day to have such remarks made in a court of law, and thought nothing of them when they met outside. So much for that personal matter. But he had something to say about the honorable member the Minister for Lands. He was not going to retort upon the honorable member, or to talk about his insolence to him (Mr. Pring). Every time the honorable member referred to him he called him, with what he considered irony, the "great constitutional lawyer." The honorable member had been the first to throw stones, and if he (Mr. Pring) had hit him, why then he deserved it. But there was one point to which he would refer, and that was in regard to the conduct of the honorable member on the occasion of the petition against his (Mr. Pring's) seat. That honorable member had not only insulted the Elections and Qualifications Committee by the remarks he had made, but also his learned friend, Mr. Blake, when he said he did not know the law; as that gentleman, as was well known, was the ablest lawyer in the colony. He would charge the honorable member with being guilty of treachery towards him—he would charge the Government with treachery to him—for if the Government had behaved to him fairly his seat would never have been declared vacant, and he would not have been put to the expense of contesting it, if the Government had been fairly honest. They took advantage of his absence, and he would say that the five members of the Government ought to be ashamed of themselves. Not only was the Royal Commission known to be in existence by the honorable the Attorney-General, but the honorable Minister for Lands had all the correspondence in his possession; and yet those same honorable members declared that his seat was vacant, and even kept back his Commission, and the papers which they knew were the safety valve of his Commission. Nay more, they altered the heading of the Commission, and then had the audacity to call it an agreement between the Honorable Ratcliffe Pring and the Government. No sane man could have called it a contract, not even that astute lawyer, Mr. Blake, would have thought of doing so; yet the Government dared to do so in his (Mr. Pring's) absence, and caused him to be put to all the expense he had incurred. So much for treachery.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS said he was glad he had got the honorable member on an argument on that subject. The words of the Act of Parliament, if he recollected rightly, spoke about a person having a contract with the Government. In the first place then, were they to take those words as in an action at law, or were they to take them as a

consideration between party and party, or between a party and the Government? Now, in an action at law, a contract would be construed on certain strict principles—

Mr. JORDAN rose to a point of order. The members of the Elections and Qualifications Committee were sworn to do what was right, and he wished to know, whether it was in order or whether it was decorous of the honorable member to re-open the question.

The SPEAKER said the amendment was the adjournment of the House till Tuesday; but, he thought, as another question had been raised, the honorable member was in order in replying to it.

Mr. ATKIN asked not whether the honorable member was in order, but whether the decision of the Committee could be reopened?

The SPEAKER ruled that, although the Report of the Elections and Qualifications Committee was not a report adopted by the House, it was not liable to be impugned. But, if the honorable the Secretary for Lands wished to answer the honorable member, Mr. Pring, he could go on.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS said that he did not wish to cast any slur on the committee, especially on the honorable member for East Moreton, Mr. Jordan, whose conduct throughout had been most impartial, but to go into the matter of the contract. There must first be the price, then the work to be done, and the parties to be bound. The price was a thousand pounds; the work to be done was to report upon the gold fields of the colony; and the parties to be bound were the honorable member and the Government. With those remarks he would say no more.

Mr. PRING: That is the greatest mistake. I was never bound.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY thought honorable members would allow him to give them a little advice. He made it a rule never to be personal, or at all events tried not to be so. As a rule, he had always been proud of the conduct of honorable members in that House, and had boasted of it when in the neighboring colonies. He trusted, therefore—

Mr. LILLEY rose to order. The honorable member had already addressed the House.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Only in explanation.

Mr. LILLEY: The honorable member had already spoken.

The SPEAKER ruled that the honorable member, having already spoken, was not in order.

Mr. FYFE, with the permission of the House, withdrew his amendment.